



PHUKET

TOURIST INFORMATION

Useful Telephone Numbers in Phuket

Emergency calls / 199
Fire Brigade / (076) 211111, 199
Immigration (076) 212108
International Airport / (076) 327230-7
Marine Police / 211883
Overseas Phone Service / 100
Phone Directory Assistance / 13
Police / (076) 212046, 212115
Post Office / (076) 211020
Thai Airways / (076) 211195,
212499, 212946
Tourism Authority of Thailand /
(076) 212213, 211036, 217138
Tourist Police / 1699

HOSPITALS

ADVENTIST HOSPITAL (MISSION).....211173
EMERGENCIES.....211173 Call 130
BANGKOK PHUKET HOSPITAL.....254421/29
EMERGENCIES.....254421/29 Call 1060/2
KATHU PATONG HOSPITAL.....340444
PAET SOMPOJ HOSPITAL.....214428
PHUKET INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL....249400
EMERGENCIES.....210935
PHYA THAI PHUKET HOSPITAL.....252603/6
EMERGENCIES.....252603/6 Call 1142, 1144
RUAM PAET HOSPITAL.....211578
EMERGENCIES.....217965
THALANG HOSPITAL.....311033/4
VACHIRA PHUKET HOSPITAL.....217294/8

Phuket

Island has a long recorded history, and remains dating back to A.D. 1025 indicate that the island's present day name derives in meaning from the *Tamil manikram*, or *crystal mountain*. For most of history, however, it was known as *Junk Ceylon*, which, with variations, is the name found on old maps. The name is thought to have its roots in Ptolemy's *Geographia*, written by the Alexandrian geographer in the Third Century A.D. He mentioned that in making a trip from *Suannapum* to the Malay Peninsula it was necessary to pass the cape of *Jang Si Lang*.

Phuket was a way station on the route between India and China where seafarers stopped to shelter. The island appears to have been part of the Shivite empire (called in Thai the Tam Porn Ling) that established itself on the Malay Peninsula during the first Millennium A.D. Later, as Muang Takua-Talang, it was part of the Srivichai and Siri Tahm empires. Governed as the eleventh in a constellation of twelve cities, Phuket's emblem, by which it was known to others in those largely pre-literate times, was the dog.

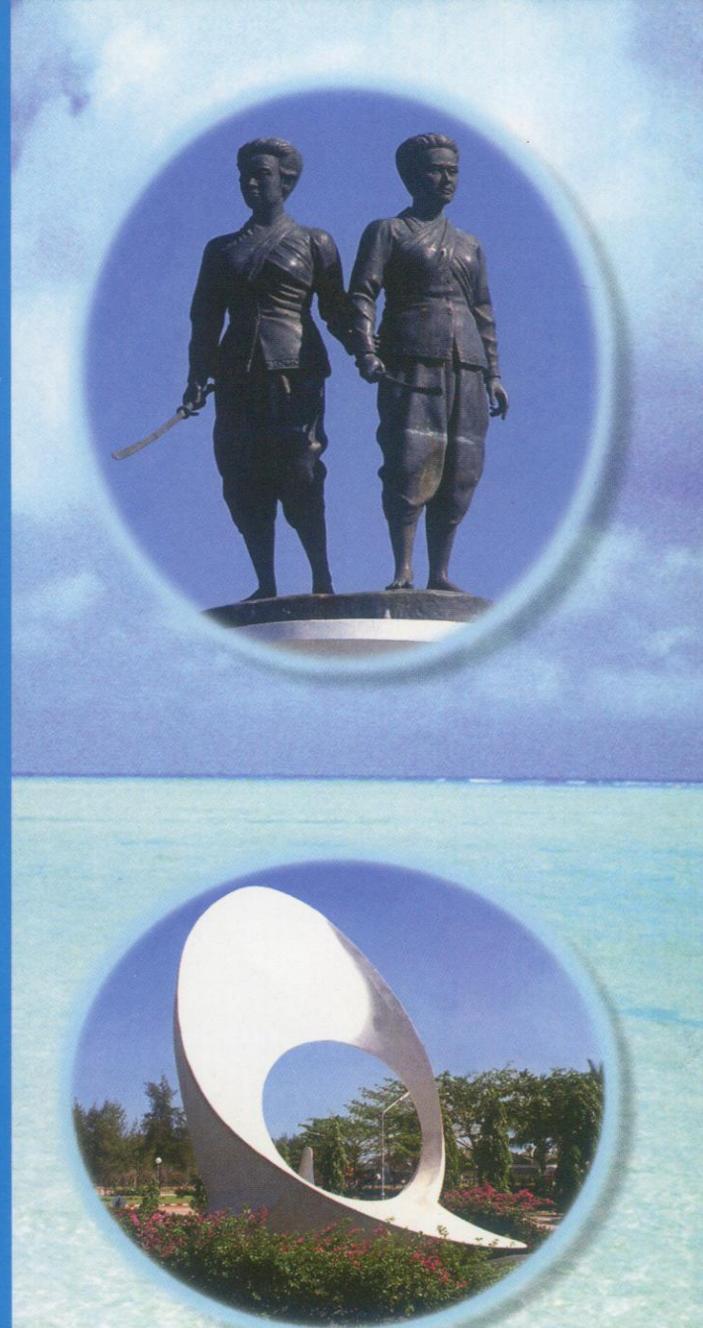
During the Sukothai Period Phuket was associated with Takua Pah in what is now Phang-nga Province, another area with vast tin reserves. The Dutch established a trading post during the Ayuthaya Period in the 16th Cent. The island's northern and central regions then were governed by the Thais, and the southern and western parts were given over to the tin trade, a concession in the hands of foreigners.

After Ayuthaya was sacked by the Burmese in 1767 there was a short interregnum in Thailand, ended by King Taksin, who drove out the Burmese and re-unified the country. The Burmese, however, were anxious to return to the offensive. They outfitted a fleet to raid the southern provinces, and carry off the populations to slavery in Burma. This led to Phuket's most memorable historic event. A passing sea captain, Francis Light, sent word that the Burmese were en route to attack. Forces in Phuket were assembled led by the two heroines, Kunying Jan, wife of Phuket's recently deceased governor, and her sister Mook. After a month's siege the Burmese were forced to depart on 13 March, 1785. Kunying Jan and her sister were credited with the successful defense.

In recognition King Rama I bestowed upon Kunying Jan the honorific *Thao Thep Kasatri*, a title of nobility usually reserved for royalty, by which she is known today. Her sister became *Thao Sri Suntorn*.

During the Nineteenth Century Chinese immigrants arrived in such numbers to work the tin mines that the ethnic character of the island's interior became predominantly Chinese, while the coastal settlements remained populated chiefly by Muslim fishermen.

In Rama V's reign, Phuket became the administrative center of a group of tin mining provinces called Manton Phuket, and in 1933, with the change in government from absolute monarchy to a parliamentary system, the island was established as a province by itself.



**USE THE SERVICE OF ONLY REGISTERED
TRAVEL AGENTS, YOU HAVE LEGAL
RIGHTS UNDER THAI LAW.**

Location and Boundaries

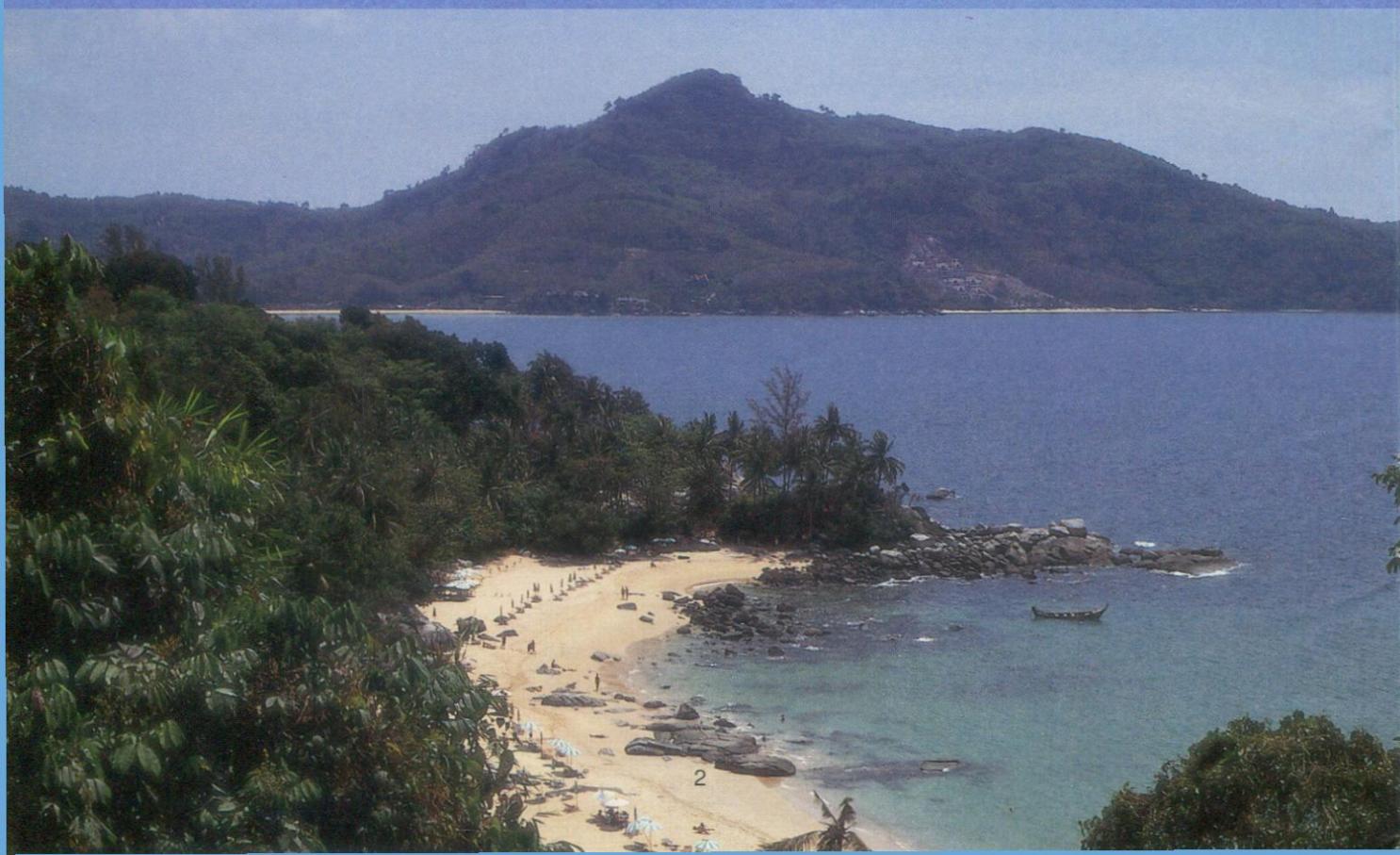
Phuket is an island connected by bridges to southern Thailand's Andaman Sea coast, in the Indian Ocean, lying between 7° 45" and 8° 15" north latitude, and from 98° 15" to 98° 40" west longitude on the map. Thailand's largest island, Phuket is surrounded by 32 smaller islands that form part of the same administration, with a total area of 570 square kilometers. Measured at its widest point, Phuket is 21.3 kilometers; at its longest, 48.7 kilometers. It is bounded thus:

On the North: Lies the Pak Prah Strait, spanned by two bridges running side-by-side, the older Sarasin Bridge, and the newer Thao Thep Krasatri Bridge.

On the South: Is the Andaman Sea.

On the East: Is Ao Phang-nga Bay (In the jurisdiction mainly of Phang-nga Province).

On the West: Is the Andaman Sea.





Geography

About 70 percent of Phuket is mountainous; a western range runs from north to south from which smaller branches derive. The highest peak is Mai Tao Sip Song, or Twelve Canes, at 529 meters, which lies within the boundaries of Tambon Patong, Kathu District (no roads go there yet). The remaining 30 percent of the island, mainly in the center and south, is formed by low plains. Streams include the Klong Bang Yai, Klong Ta Jin, Klong Ta Rua, and Klong Bang Rohng, none of which is large.



Climate

Phuket's weather conditions are dominated by monsoon winds that blow year round. It is therefore always warm and humid. There are two distinct seasons, rainy and dry. The rainy season begins in May and lasts till October, during which the monsoon blows from the southwest. The dry season is from November through April, when the monsoon comes from the northeast. Highest average temperatures, at 33.4 degrees Celsius, prevail during March. Lowest averages occur in January, when nightly lows dip to 22 degrees Celsius.

Economy

Since the early 1980's the tourist business has been Phuket's chief source of income. Hotels, restaurants, tour companies, and souvenir shops are much in evidence on the west coast. However, while once all-important tin mining has ceased, tourism is by no means the island's only activity. Agriculture remains important to a large number of people, and covers by far the most part of the island. Principal crops are rubber, coconuts, cashews, and pineapples. Prawn farming has largely taken over the east and south coasts. Pearl farming is also important. Phuket's fishing port is at all times filled, and processing of marine products, mainly fish, makes a significant contribution to the economy.

With so many healthy industries supplying income, construction has become a major factor in employment. This ranges from massive public works projects, large office buildings and hotels, and housing estates with hundreds of units, down to single family homes, apartments and additions.

Population

Official population as of December 31, 1998, was 231,206. This figure numbers those who are registered as living in Phuket. Phuket's attraction as a center of economic activity has resulted in many living on the island whose registration is elsewhere. The total population of Phuket varies considerably depending on the time of year, though it is never less than the figure given above.

Government

The island is divided into three districts, Talang in the north, Kathu in the west, and Muang in the south. Thailand's system of government relies upon a strong central authority, thus the Provincial Governor is a civil servant appointed by the Interior Ministry in Bangkok, as are the Nai Amper, or District Chief. The cities of Phuket and Patong have their own city governments, with elected city councils, the leading members of which serve as mayor. There are also elected provincial, district, and sub-district, or Tambon councils. The local constabulary is part of the Interior Ministry.

Travel

By car : Take Routh 4 from Bangkok south. Along the way pass the provinces of Nakorn Pathom, Ratchburi, Petchburi, Prajuab-Kirikan, and at Chumporn go right to Ranong. From Ranong, go south through Kraburi and Kah-Perr districts to Phang-nga Province. In Phang-nga the road passes through Kuraburi, Takua Pa, and Takua Tung districts before reaching the town of Kok Kloy, just beyond which is the Tao Thep Krasatri Bridge and Phuket. Distance is 867 kilometers.

By Coach : Both air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned buses leave the Southern Bus Terminal in Bangkok daily. For details call the individual bus companies : Borisat Kohn Sohng Jumkat Phuket Transport Co. Ltd., in Bangkok tel. (02) 4351200, or in Phuket (076) 211 480; Borisat Phuket Central Tour, in Bangkok tel. (02) 4343233, or in Phuket (076) 213 615, 214 335; Phuket Travel Service, in Bangkok tel. (02) 435 5018, 435 5034, or in Phuket (076)

222 107-9

By Air : Details about flights to and from Phuket International Airport can be obtained from Thai Airways, in Bangkok Tel. (02) 280 0070, 280 0080, or in Phuket (076) 211 195, 212 499, 212 946, or from travel agents around the world. There are also many regular and chartered flights from other airlines

By Sea : The Deep Sea Port (Port of Phuket) at Phuket is visited by both cargo and cruise ships from Thailand and from abroad. Contact your travel agent for information about the many different ships that stop at Phuket.

Places of Interest in Muang District

Kao Rang (เขา rang) A great view of Phuket Town, the southern part of the island, and some of the offshore islands, can be obtained by going to the top of Kao Rang Hill, on the city's northwest. There are also several restaurants featuring spectacular views of the city, a health park for exercise enthusiasts, and a comfortable, expanse of grass for picnickers at the top with a bronze statue of Phraya Ratsada Nupradit the model Governor of Phuket during King Rama V's reign.



Antique Buildings (ตึกเก่า)

The beginning of the tin boom during the Nineteenth Century led to construction of many fine old mansions and shops still well preserved. The architectural style, typical of the region, is described as Sino-Portuguese, and has a strongly Mediterranean character. Shops present a very narrow face on the street but stretch back a long way. Many, especially on Dibuk Rd., have old wooden doors with Chinese fretwork carving. Other streets, forming what might be called 'Old Phuket', with similar structures are Phang-nga, Yaowarat, Thalang, and Krabi, and a walking tour of the area is easy and delightful. Some other old European-style buildings of note are the Provincial Hall (Sala Klang), the Phuket Courthouse (San Jahngwaht), and Nakorn Luang Thai Bank.

Phuket Aquarium (พิพิธภัณฑ์สัตว์น้ำ)

More than one-hundred species of sea life are on display at the aquarium, many of them taken from the waters around Phuket. Open daily, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., the aquarium is located at Cape Panwa, on the island's extreme southeast; admission is 5 baht for children and 20 baht for adults. A Songtaew (local bus) can be taken from the Talad Soht, or Fresh Market. Tel. (076) 391 126.

Phuket Butterfly Farm and Aquarium

(สวนผึ้งและอควาเรียมงกุฎี) Tropical species of butterflies, other insects, and many kinds of marine life are on display. Located in Sam Kong, about 3 kms. from downtown Phuket (see map). Open daily, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tel. (076) 215 616, 210 861.

Thai Village and Orchid Farm (หมู่บ้าน

ไทยและสวนกล้วยไม้) A show of Thai dance, handicrafts, culture, elephants and a demonstration of old time tin-mining takes place among the orchids. Located in Sam Kong, about 3 kms. from downtown Phuket (see map). The morning showing starts at 11:00 a.m., the evening showing at 5:30 p.m. Tel. (076) 214 860, 237 400

Sapan Hin (สะพานหิน) A land reclamation project provided abundant new land now used for parks and public facilities at Sapan Hin, located where Phuket Rd. meets the sea in Phuket Town. In the circle is the The Tin Mining Monument, shaped like a large drill bit, dedicated to the memory of Captain Edward Thomas Miles, the Australian who brought the first tin dredge to Phuket in 1909. The monument was built in 1969 on the occasion of 60 th anniversary of tin dredging in Phuket. The Sport Center is located in the park.

Sirey Island (เกาะสี雷) Separated from the mainland of Phuket by the Klong Ta Jin, a shallow mangrove swamp, this twenty square kilometer island is connected by a causeway to the city. Wat Koh Sirey, on the hill, has a large Reclining Buddha and provides fine views of the surroundings. Phuket's largest settlement of Sea

Gipsies, or Chao Lay, are on Koh Sirey at Laem Tuk-kae. Swimming is not good because of the muddy bottom. There are some popular seafood restaurants on the eastern shore.

Chalong Temple (วัดฉลอง)

is about 8 kms. outside town. Take Vichit Songkram Rd. to the Bypass Rd. and turn left, and drive for about 10 mins. Wat Chalong will be on your left. This is where stands the cast statue of Luang Por Cham, who helped the people of Phuket put down the Ahngyee, or Chinese Coolie, Rebellion in 1876 during the reign of Rama V. There are also statues of Luang Por Chuang, and Luang Por Gluam, other monks, who were abbots of the temple during later times, and who are the objects of respect and recipients of offerings by Phuket people generally.

Chalong Bay

(อ่าวฉลอง) Phuket's principal boat anchorage and the island's largest bay. Ao Chalong has a long, flat, shallow, muddy bottom; at ebbtide, waters recede as much as one kilometer. It is very picturesque but useless for swimming. Most visitors to the islands south of Phuket depart from Chalong pier, and the bay's restaurants are well known for their seafood. Charters to various places can be arranged from there, and it is the center of the island's yachting businesses. To get there take Jao Fah Tawan Tok Rd. or Jao Fah Tawan Okk Rd. to Chalong Circle, often called the Ha Yaek, or Five Ways, because it is a five-way intersection. The pier and a number of restaurants are located on the short road leading to the beach from the circle.

Phuket Sea Shell Museum

(พิพิธภัณฑ์หอย) Perhaps the world's most valuable collection of seashells has been put on display at Phuket Seashell near Rawai Beach on the island's southwestern shores. The emphasis is on shells from Phuket



and Thai waters, which are among the most sought-after by collectors, however shells from every part of the world are featured. Wherever they originate, each shell in the Shell Museum is the best of its type--very often the only of its type. Displays have been created in a logical order, and visitors can see at once differing characteristics among related species. There are numerous rarities and freaks including the world's largest golden pearl (140 karats), large sections of sedimentary rock containing shell fossils that represent the earth's earliest life-forms, and a shell that weighs 250 kilograms. One of the world's great private museums, the Shell Museum is open daily from 8:00 a.m. till 7:00 p.m. For details call 381 266, or 381 274

Ka Cape (แคลมคา) is a popular stop for Thai visitors to the island. Located at the extreme southwest of Chalong Bay. South of the point is Laem Kah Beach, a sandy strip dotted with rocks and boulders. Okay for swimming, but watch out for coral close in. The extensive coral reefs off shore make for interesting snorkeling mornings, when the waters are clear. Bungalows, Thai food, and boat charters to the islands are available. Laem Kah is 7 kms. west of Chalong Circle (see map).

Rawai Beach (หาดราไวย์) Site of a Chao Ley or Sea Gipsy village, many restaurants and bungalows, shell handicraft shops, and both fishing and charter boats. The waters are okay for swimming; snorkeling on the reefs off shore. Rawai is 7 kms. west of Chalong Circle (see map).

Prom Thep Cape (แหลมพรหมเทพ) 'Prom' is Thai for the Hindu 'Brahma' signifying purity, and 'Thep' means 'God'. Promthe is a headland stretching in to the sea and forming the extreme south-end of Phuket. It has been a prominent feature for mariners since of early seafarers from the sub-continent, remains of whose journeys have been found all along the Malay-peninsula's west coast.

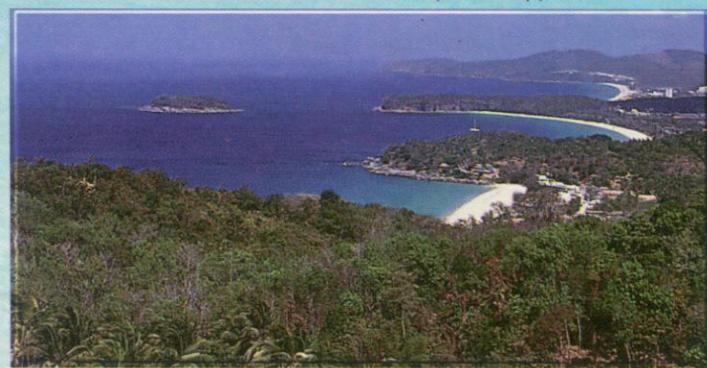
From Rawai Beach turn right and go for 2 kms.



The cape has tall cliffs on the south, and was formerly called by local villagers 'Laem Jao' (The Gods' Cape). From the cliffs running down to the boulders at the sea is a line of toddy palm trees. Emerald green currents swirl in the deep water and breakers hurl themselves in vain against the rocky point: it is one of Phuket's most inspiring vistas. In the distance can be seen Koh Gaew. From Promthe Cape, which is the most beautiful place to catch Phuket's famous sunset, a road leads northwest to Nai Harn Beach.

Nai Harn Beach (หาด奈旱) A popular swimming beach and yacht anchorage during the dry season. The beach is fine, but big waves strike it during the wet season, making swimming dangerous. Regular bus service to and from Phuket Town during daytime. Nai Harn is just north of Prom Thep (see map).

Sehn Bay (อ่าวเสน) A small bay with many rocks and corals. Snorkeling and diving are okay, but swimming without a mask could be dangerous among the corals. For sunbathers, this secluded, curving strand north of Nai Harn offers some privacy. A small open air restaurant supplies food and drink. Cheap bungalows are located just west of the beach. To get there go through the parking lot of the Phuket Yacht Club hotel and follow the road to Ao Sehn, about 1/2 km (see map).



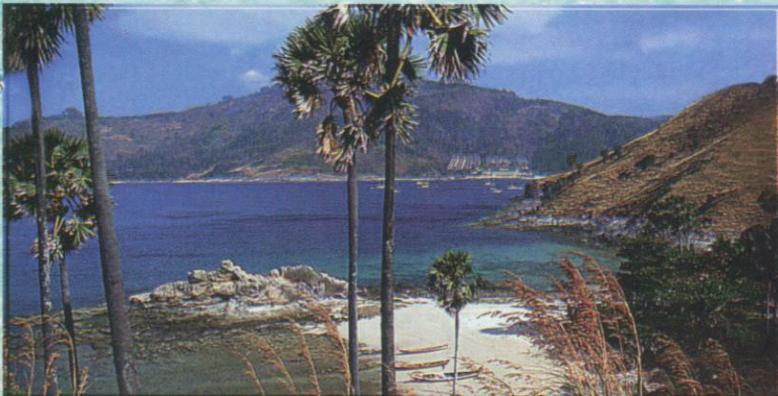
View Point (จุดชมวิว) From this point can be seen the bays of Kata Noi, Kata, and Karon, and also Koh Poo Island. It is one of the island's best views. A large public sala, or shelter is there for visitors, and several vendors sell food, drinks, and souvenirs in the area when the weather is nice. The Viewpoint is between Kata and Nai Harn (see map).

Kata Beach (หาดกะตะ) The smallest of Phuket's three main tourist beaches, Kata is different in appearance and style from Karon or Patong. The beach itself is broad and curving, and structures bordering it are low-rise. The waters are perfect for swimming, and at the north end is a coral reef with many varied corals and fishes which stretches out toward Koh Poo Is., about 1/2 km off shore. Facilities, for every price range, include hotels, bungalows, tour companies, restaurants, bars and clubs. Regular bus service to and from Phuket Town during daytime.

Kata Noi Beach (หาดกะตะน้อย) South of Kata is Kata Noi, a smaller beach with only a few hotels and little other development. The beach is superb. Many fish inhabit the rocks and corals along the beachless shoreline stretching south. To get there take the narrow beach road up over the hill from Kata (see map).

Karon Beach (หาดกะรน) The second largest of Phuket's principal tourist beaches. Large resort complexes line the road back of the beach, but the strand itself, long and broad, has no development. The sand is very white, and squeaks audibly when walked on. The southern point has a fine coral reef stretching toward Kata and Poo Island. Restaurants, bars, tour companies and other non-hotel businesses are at the north end, near the traffic circle, and at the south, on the little road connecting the back road with the beach road. The narrow road between Kata and Karon has a number of small businesses as well as the Dino Park Mini Golf facility. Karon is the most up-scale of Phuket's beaches. Regular daytime bus service to and from Phuket Town.

Mai Ton Island (เกาะไม้ท่อน) This tiny island off Phuket's southeast coast is highly prized for its still perfect natural environment, including fine white beaches and crystal waters; ideal for swimming, diving, or fishing. The only business of any kind is the plush Maiton Island Resort. Those not wishing to stay overnight may take a daytime excursion leaving from Ao Makam Deep Sea Port. For details contact (076) 214954-7

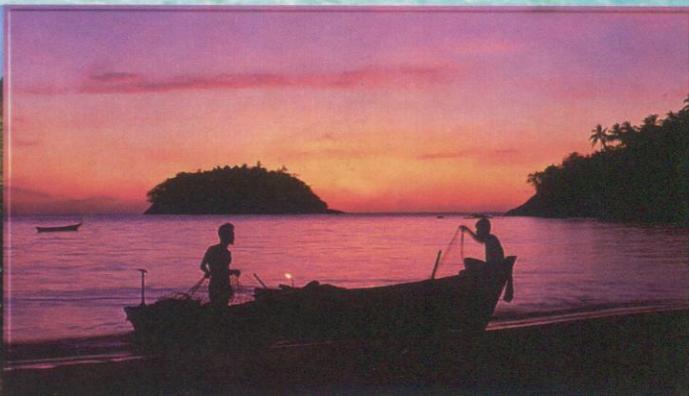


Tapao Yai Island (เกาะตะเก่าใหญ่) 10 minutes from Phuket by ferry from Ao Makam on Phuket's southeast coast. The island is home to the Bucerotes hornbill. To get there from Phuket Town take Jao Fah Rd. to the Sakdidet Rd. intersection, turn left on Sakdidet and follow it 8 kms. to Ao Makam. The road splits in the vicinity of oil storage facilities; take the left fork about 200 meters to the Koh Tapao ferry pier. Dining and Accommodations available on the island. For details call Phuket Paradise, (076) 214 917

Kaew Island (เกาะแก้ว) A fine beach, natural surroundings, and coral are on this little island 3 kms. from Rawai, south of Prom Thep. There is also a giant statue of the Buddha. The island is 15 minutes by chartered boat from Rawai (see map).

Lohn Island (เกาะโลhn) This large, mountainous island is only 20 minutes by regular passenger boat from Chalong Bay, in the south of Phuket. The mainly Muslim inhabitants engage in fishing, rubber and coconut planting. There is a long stretch of beach on the northeast coast. Boats to Koh Lohn leave daily in the early morning from Chalong Pier (see map).

Coral Island or Hey Island (เกาะเช) This island off Phuket's south coast is so well known for its coral reef that it is often referred to simply as Coral Island. In addition to the splendid reefs there are two fine beaches on the north and west. Koh Heh is part of a marine preserve, but accommodations, restaurants, various watersports, and diving are all available. Boats leave from Rawai and Chalong. There are also package tours available.



Raya (or Racha) Islands (หมู่เกาะรา耶า) Two islands running roughly northeast to southwest off Phuket's southern coast.

- **Raya Yai Island** (เกาะร้ายใหญ่) On the west coast is a fine beach closed in by the hills that stretch away from it like two arms of a horseshoe called alternately Ao Tawan Tok or Ao Bungalow. The sands are sparkling clean and the waters crystal clear like those of the Similan Islands. From the top of a hill on the bay's south is a view point from which the whole island can be seen. On the east, at Ao Kon Kae Bay, is a coral reef where diving is excellent.

- **Raya Noi Island** (เกาะร้ายน้อย) This island, 10 kms. from Koh Raya Yai, is the result of coral reef build up, and there are more rocks than beaches. In a small bay on the west is a boat anchorage. The waters at Koh Raya Noi are emerald green, and fishing is famous, but swimming is not advised.

To get there contact a charter boat at Ao Chalong or Rawai, or go to a travel agent for details on package tours to the islands. By long-tailed boat, the travel time is about two hours. Larger boats operated by tour companies will make the trip in about one hour. Travel to the Racha Islands is restricted to the dry season and periods when the monsoon is not blowing.

Koh Rahng Yai lying off Phuket's east coast, this small island has been developed for the out-of-

doors minded tourist. Among the many activities are sea kayaking, mountain-biking, playing miniature golf, and visiting the island's pearl farm. For travel to Koh Rahng Yai, boats may be hired from Laem Hin Pier, just outside Phuket Town before the town of Sapam or from Phuket boat Lagoon. Package tours are available from Richy Island Tour, tel. 238 163, and other tour agencies.

Places of Interest in Kathu District

Patong Beach (หาดป่าตอง) This is Phuket's central tourist and night time entertainment district. Over the years, Patong has turned from a fishing village into one of the island's two cities. The famous bay and 4 km. beach remain as they were, with development limited to the area back of the beach road. There, however, virtually every kind of entertainment imaginable awaits visitors, with bars catering to every nationality. Live music can be found in many places, and there are also discotheques. Accommodations range from budget to five-star. Shopping opportunities appear to be endless. Whatever one's culinary disposition, a restaurant catering to it will be found. In addition, there are many tour companies waiting to help visitors plan their vacations. Some of the options available are listed below, but Patong is thick with everything. There's saying locally, "If you can't find it in Patong, it doesn't exist in Phuket," which, if not entirely true, about sums it up.





Among the larger attractions are :

- **Pirate's Cove Miniature Golf** 36 holes of miniature golf. 2 courses to choose from : The Jungle Course or Blackbeard's Challenge. Internationally rated; fast food restaurant and bar. Located on Song Roi Pi Rd., the next road back from the beach, next to Holiday Inn Hotel. Tel. (076) 342 951; open 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

- **Phuket Water Ski Cableways** An inland water skiing course on a man-made lake. Skiers are pulled round the oval track at speeds of up to 30 kph by overhead cables. Instruction is free for beginners. Located over the hill northeast of Patong at 86/3 Moo 6 Soi Nam Tok Kathu, near Kathu Waterfall (see map). Tel. (076) 202 525-7; open daily 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

- **Simon Cabaret** This transvestite show features dozens of gorgeously appareled boys dancing and lipsynching to popular songs. Costumes, choreography and pacing are very impressive; sound system and staging are state-of-the-art. Two shows nightly. Tel. (076) 342 011-5 Located on the Patong-Karon road (see map).

- **Tarzan's Jungle Bungy Jump** Jump from the top of a 53 m crane toward a pond while connected to a long elastic bungy cord; very exhilarating. Fully insured. Note : This is not recommended for the aged, the infirm, or those with chronic heart problems. Food and drink in a park-like atmosphere. Tel. (076) 321 351.

Located over the hill northeast of Patong at 61/3 Moo 6 on the road to Phuket Town.

- **Tarzan's Catapult Bungy** This uses an elastic cord similar to the one mentioned above, but relies upon a catapult to shoot customers up in the air. Mobile Tel. 01-464 1581. Located on Soi

Sunset at Patong Beach, near the Expat Hotel.

- **Patong Go-kart Speedway** A well planned raceway and high-powdered go-carts await carting enthusiasts. Food and drink in the pits. Tel. (076) 321949; open 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Located over the hill northeast of Patong at 118/5 Vichit Songkram Rd., near Kathu District Office

- **Horror House** at Patong, features scenes from 16 famous horror movies. Open 5.00 p.m. - 12.00 p.m. Tel. (076) 293123

Kalim Beach (หาดกะลิม) This beach is really a continuation north of Patong's strand, from which it is separated by some rocks. It is not yet developed and thus affords some privacy. Back of the beach are accommodations. The waters contain extensive coral reefs.

Kamala Beach (หาดกามala) Kamala is a Muslim fishing village north of Patong. Tourist development on the beach much of which is covered by a Muslim graveyard and a police outpost has been slow in coming. Buffalo herds still come down to the beach to cool off in the afternoon. The beach is beautiful and about 2 kms. in length. There are accommodations ranging from guesthouse to international class, and a number of small Thai restaurants specializing in seafood for the tourist. Kamala is the perfect place to get away from it all and has little to offer in the way of entertainment for that go across the mountains to Patong. Regular bus service to and from Phuket Town during daytime; tuk-tuk service available to Patong, 5 kms. away on the new road.

Phuket Fantasea The ultimate cultural theme park was constructed on 300 rai of land at Kamala Beach, about 9 kilometers north of Patong on the island's rim road. Fantasea represents a new dimension in nighttime entertainment, using ultra-high technology to create fantastic illusions and special effects for shows centering on Thai legends featuring hundreds of performers and dancers in gorgeous attire. There are also animal performances, the most prominent being a large troupe of trained elephants. in 3,000 seat theatre. Other features include a fanciful village where souvenirs are displayed, a 4,000 seat restaurant serving Thai & international cuisine. For details and information about tickets call tel. (076) 271 222

Places of Interest in Thalang District

Thalang National Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์แห่งชาติดอย)

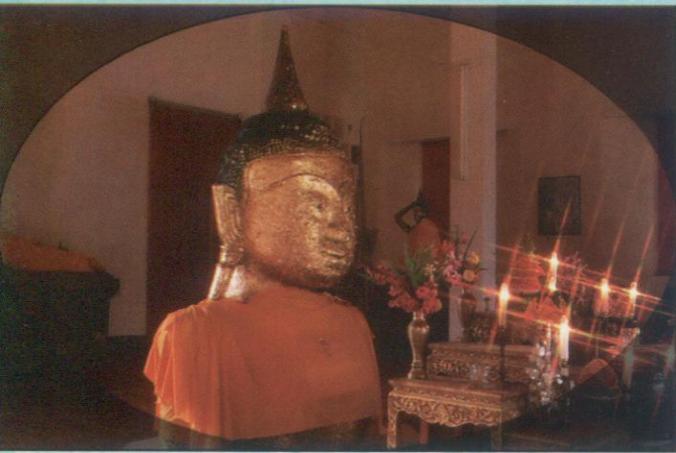
Ancient artifacts from Phuket's long history are on display; the oldest were found on the west coast. In addition there are exhibits detailing the famous Battle of Thalang involving the Two Heroines, daily life in Phuket, and the Sea Gipsy culture.

Tel. (076) 311025, 311426; open daily except holidays 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. Located just east of the Two Heroines Monument on the Pa Khlok Rd.

Naka Noy Island this small, quiet island with fine sandy beaches lies just off Phuket's northeast shore. Waters are suitable for swimming. One item of interest at Koh Naka Noy not found in many other places is its pearl farm. Boats can be hired from Ao Por Pier, off Pa Khlok Rd., for travel to Koh Naka Noy, and package trips are available at tour agencies, generally including lunch and a visit to the pearl farm.

Pra Nahng Sahng Temple (วัดพระนางสร้าง)

The grounds of this historic temple are where the Battle of Thalang took place in 1785. Inside are three very old statues wrought in tin of the Buddha; they are the largest such in the world and date from a time when tin was regarded as a semi-precious metal. The bellies of the three big statues each contain a smaller statue, from which derives their name, 'Monks in the Belly' in local vernacular, or 'The Three Kings' in formal language. Located on Thep Krasatri Rd. in Thalang Town at the traffic light (see map).



Pra Tong Temple (วัดพระทอง)

This shrine encloses a golden statue of Buddha that sprang up from beneath the earth long ago. The story is of a young boy who tied his buffalo to what he thought was a post; it was in an area at that time given over to the raising of animals. After doing so, he fell down in agony and died. The father of the boy dreamed that the reason

his son had died was for the sin of tying a filthy buffalo to a sacred object, that what the boy thought was a post was in reality the golden peak of the Buddha's conical cap. He told his neighbors the dream and they all went out to dig up the statue but had no success.

Later, at the time of Thao Thep Kasatri's heroic defense against the Burmese in 1785, the invaders tried to succeed where the villagers had failed; their intention was to take the statue back to Burma. Sacred objects and slaves were then the most sought after spoil for armies: Holy statues brought good luck to their possessors, and the slaves were used for work, and to populate places that lacked inhabitants--a frequent problem for rulers in Southeast Asia, who had a great deal of land but very few subjects. The Burmese, however, were unable to retrieve the golden Buddha despite several attempts; they were finally driven off by a swarm of angry hornets.

After this the villagers decided to protect their miraculous statue by covering the part that stuck up from the ground with a plaster cast of Buddha's head and shoulders' which is the way it is today. Located north of the traffic light on the outskirts of Thalang Town (see map). A large sign shows the entrance.

Khao Pra Taew Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Center (เข้าพระแท้ว)

22.28 square kilometers of virgin forest are covered by this park, which also actively conserves a number of wild animals; they would otherwise be extinct in fast-growing Phuket. It is a center for study of the environment. Forest vegetation is spectacular: Giant trees supported by huge buttresses are thick with creepers and climbers of every description; it looks like a Tarzan movie set. One species of palm found, the Governor's Palm or White Back Palm (pahm lahung kao in Thai) is especially rare. Langurs, barking deer, mouse deer, deer, bear, wild boar, monkeys, gibbons, and many species of birds inhabit the forest. Kao Pra Taew serves also as one of Phuket's most important water sources. There are two waterfalls of note:

- **Ton Sai** (น้ำตกโคนไกร) A small falls over which pours a great volume of water during the rainy season. The trees, watercourses, and pools nearby provide one of Phuket's loveliest scenes. The park headquarters and a small restaurant with an excellent view are also at Ton Sai. Located near Thalang Town, 22 kms. from Phuket

Town. Go to the traffic light and take the road running east; look for posted signs indicating Kao Pra Taew (see map).

- **Bang Pae** (น้ำตกบางปี) Best known now as the site of the Gibbon Fund, a project to return domesticated gibbons to the forest, Bang Pae is a small waterfall with a shady forest and thick foliage surrounding. To get there go to the Two Heroines Monument and take the road running east, the Pa Khlok Rd., 7 kms. to Bang Pae (see map). Look for the posted signs.

Surin Beach (หาดสุรินทร์) Evergreen trees rim this small, curving bay beneath the foothills north of Kamala. Surin is home to Phuket's first golf course, a nine-hole course laid out more than sixty years ago during the reign of King Rama VII. It is now largely in disuse except as a park. The steep incline of the beach, turbulent water, and big waves make Surin a dangerous place to swim during the rainy season. Located at the end of Sri Suntorn Rd., the road running west from the Two Heroines Monument, 24 kms. from Phuket Town (see map). Accommodations and restaurants are nearby.

Singh Cape (แหลมสิงห์) The name means Lion's Point in English--in this case, the mythical, stylized lion of Chinese literature, not the African variety; there have never been any lions found in Thailand. The beach is in a small, curving bay with rocky headlands at the foot of forest-fringed cliffs and is among Phuket's most beautiful. Located about 1 km. south of the entrance to Surin Beach. Look for signs indicating the path down to the beach.

Bangtao Beach (หาดบางเตา): Bang Tao is a large open bay with one of Phuket's longest beaches. It was once used for tin mining, but has since been developed into a luxury resort. Most of it is occupied by the Laguna complex, a massive five-hotel development with golf course. There are, however, accommodations available outside Laguna at the bay's south end. Dry season swimming is excellent, and at the bay's north end is a smaller bay, almost completely enclosed, at the mouth of which is some fine coral. Plenty of places to eat, tour companies, and other tourist facilities available either at Laguna or in the nearby town of Cherng Talay. **Located** off Sri Suntorn Rd. in Cherng Talay for access to Laguna; the south end of the bay may be approached

by taking the road north from Surin Beach. To get to the far north end from Sri Suntorn Rd., take the road leading to Laguna, but do not enter, continue on to the town of Bandon where there is an intersection of asphalted roads, and take the one leading west toward the sea. This road leads also to Nai Ton Bay and makes a very pleasant drive. Along the way are some small bays with good swimming and no development.

Sirinat National Park (Nai Yang Beach)

(อุทยานแห่งชาติสิรินาถ) This covers 90 square kilometers near Phuket's airport and includes 13 kilometer long Nai Yang Beach. The park stretches all the way to the island's northern tip. There are a number of interesting places to visit :

- **Nai Ton Beach** (หาดในตอน) This quiet bay nestled at the foot of high hills has a fine strip of sand. There are some accommodations but virtually no other business; it's often nearly deserted. Located between Bang Tao Bay and Nai Yang (see map). From Thep Krasatri Rd., turn at the first traffic light north of Thalang Town heading west, which is the Nai Yang Rd. (so called because it passes through rubber plantations, or yahng in Thai). Look for signs indicating the turn-off to Nai Ton.

- **Nai Yang Beach** (หาดไนyang) This is where the National Park offices are located. The beach itself is on a long curving bay lined with evergreens that provide shade to picnickers--for which activity this is a very popular spot. The large coral reef is home to many different species of fish, and Nai Yang is well known as a site where sea turtles come to lay their eggs during the period from November to February; the population of these has, however, dropped off greatly. First class accommodations are available, and small food vendors cater to the many day trippers that visit. To get there take the Nai Yang Rd. and look for signs indicating the park entrance

- **Mai Khao Beach** (หาดเมี้ยข้าว) Many kilometers of deserted beach characterize Mai Khao. There is little tourist business. The water is fine for swimming during the dry season; the rainy season brings big waves and strong currents that are dangerous. This lonely beach is another where sea turtles come to lay eggs. It is also home to what the Thais call a sea cicada, which is a form of marine life. To get there go to the northern tip of Phuket; the beach lies along the road's length.

- **Sai Kaew Beach** (หาดทรายแก้ว) This strip of sand is really just the northern portion of Mai Khao Beach and has much the same character. Located west of the bridges spanning the channel between Phuket and Phang-nga provinces.

- **Mangrove Forest** (ป่าชายเลน) Situated in Sirinat National Park near Ta Chatchai on Phuket's northern tip, the mangroves--saltwater swamps with unique eco-systems much prized by scientists searching for clues about adaptation and evolution--cover about 800 rai. Anyone with an interest in horticulture will be interested in the many unusual perennial plants found here: mountain ebony (kohng kahng bai lek), red cycas (prohng daeng), black myrsina (samae dahm), the Lady's Nails quisqualis (leb mue nang), and various creepers and climbers are among the more significant. There are also many mangrove-dwelling animals with unique evolutionary characteristics. A nature trail has been cleared for the convenience of visitors with signs indicating and explaining the various species.

Activities and Recreation

Scuba Diving Phuket is a center for the scuba diving industry. Popular locations for diving include the Similan, Surin, and Phi Phi islands. All instruction and equipment is available at the main beaches, with teachers of various nationalities. Beginner courses are very inexpensive, so if you have never learned to scuba dive, Phuket is a great place to learn.

Snorkeling The bays in Phuket contain many interesting coral reefs. Equipment can be rented from dive shops around the island.

Swimming During the rainy season's storms this can be very dangerous. Look for posted signs and flags indicating conditions for safe swimming; if the red flag is flying, do not go swimming in the ocean!

Sailing Most classes of boat--from dinghies to yachts--are available for rent.

For yachts & cruises :

- -Thai Marine Leisure, tel. (076) 239111
- -Sunsail Charters, tel. (076) 239057

- -Phuket Island Discovery, tel. (076) 239031
- -Phuket Marina Services, tel. (076) 238943-4
- -House Boats Ahoy, tel. (076) 260494

The Chinese Junk tour of Phang-nga Bay is also very interesting:

- -East West Siam, tel. (076) 340 912; fax (076) 206 653

Facilities and services for yachts are available at

- Phuket Boat Lagoon, in Koh Kaew; tel. (076) 238 948; fax. (076) 239 056. Restaurant, hotel, pool, modern facilities; about 5 kms. north of Phuket Town in a sheltered lagoon.
- Yacht Haven Phuket, tel. (076) 206704-5 is located at the island's northeast end and offers year round protection from storms and rough seas.

- Phuket Boating Association, tel. 381615 at Ao Chalong
- Ao Chalong Yacht Club tel. 381488 at Ao Chalong
- Ban Nit Marina, tel. (076) 200409 at Kao Kan
- Phuket Yacht Club, tel. (076) 211470 at Ao Yon

RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR YACHTS ENTERING PHUKET WATERS

Where to Report Upon Entry : Phuket Port Control Center, located on 2nd floor of the Phuket Fishing Lodge Hotel, 52/2 Mu 9 Tambon (Sub district) Chalong, Amphoe Muang, Phuket, Latitude 7° 49' 0"N, longitude 98° 22' 0"E, tel and fax 66 76 381614

Types of Craft that Must Report : All yachts of foreign registry must report.

Making Contact : All vessels entering within 12 nautical miles must report their presence by radio: VHF Channel 16, 156.800 MHZ

Services : One Stop Services include :

1. Immigration
2. Customs
3. Harbour Master Region 5
4. Chalong Sub-district Administration

For smaller craft: Toppers and dinghies are available at Patong; Catamarans, Hobie Cats, and Top Cats are available at Kata.

Wind Surfing Boards may be rented by the hour, half-day, full day, or week at most major beaches. Tuition is available free.

Deep Sea Fishing Many tours are available; sailfish and marlins are the prized fish. Consult a tour agent for details.

Sea Canoeing Touring the limestone caverns in Phang-nga Bay is an unforgettable experience. Inflatable canoes squeeze into and under islands. Tour packages include all transportation and lunch.

Golf Phuket has four top golf courses with service that makes this a worldwide center for golf lovers.

- -Phuket Country Club in Kathu. Tel. (076) 321 038-40.
- -Loch Palm Club in Kathu. Tel. (076) 321 929-31, 321 933-4.
- -Banyan Tree at Bang Tao. Tel. (076) 324 350, 270 991-2
- -Blue Canyon near the airport in Thalang. Tel.(076) 327 440-7.

Miniature Golf Aside from Pirate's Cove Miniature Golf, which is covered under the listing on Patong, there is also:

- -Dino Park Mini Golf at Karon Beach. 18 holes; Tel. (076) 330 625.

Tours of Phuket Town The architecture and history of Phuket Town are examined during a guided tour of the town's historic center.

- -Old Phuket Tour Tel. & fax. (076) 311 270.

Jungle Tours Learn details of the life and environment of Phuket and surrounding provinces. Forest walks, river canoeing, elephant treks, and tour by Land Rover are made in small groups; eco-friendly eco-tourism.

Horseback Riding Guided tours on horseback are another way to relax while sight-seeing.

- -Crazy Horse in Nai Harn; tel. (076) 288 795.
- -Phuket Riding Club at Chalong; tel. (076) 288 213.
- -Phuket Laguna Riding Club at Bang Tao; tel (076) 324 199.
- -Phuket Shooting Range at Chalong; tel. (076) 381 667.

Mountain Biking It's easier than it looks: Most any person can enjoy themselves on a mountain bike, which

has gearing sufficient to take the mightiest incline.

- -Andaman Trails tel. (076) 235 353

Herbal Saunas and Thai Massage are available in a variety of price ranges and levels of expertise. The best known herbal sauna is:

- -The Hide Away in Patong on Soi Na Nai Rd. Tel. (076) 340 591.

Thai Boxing "Muay Thai" as it is called in Thai, strikes blows at - and with - every part of the body. The stadium is located at Sapan Hin in Phuket Town and bouts are held Friday nights.

Target Shooting Take aim with guns from small caliber to big bore and shot guns

- -Phuket Shooting Range at Chalong. Tel. (076) 381 667-8; fax. (076) 281 054.

Paintball Play at war with guns that shoot paint instead of lead. Loads of fun.

- -Top Gun at Chalong. Tel.(076) 381 667; fax. (076) 381 665.

Monkey School at Chalong, show times are 11.00, 14.00, 16.00 daily except Friday. Tel. 01-9569338

Snake Farms and Cobra Shows are located at Chalong and Patong.

The following tours are available at travel agencies :

- City Tour (Phuket Sight Seeing Tour)
- Phang-nga Bay Tour
- Phi Phi Island Tour
- Similan Island Tour
- Raya Island Tour
- Coral Island Tour
- Kai Island Tour
- Rang Yai Island Tour
- Maiton Island Tour
- Naka Island Tour
- Sea Canoeing Tour
- Eco & Adventure Tour

Shopping

Large department stores are located in Phuket Town and Patong, and a smaller one is in Thalang Town; they have a broad range of what is available in Thailand, both imported and domestic. Tailors have shops everywhere; labour costs are inexpensive so a handmade suit is an attractive purchase. Tailors supply the cloth, or you can select your own from one of the many cloth merchants on Thalang Rd. in Phuket Town (see map).

Department Stores:

- Ocean Shopping Mall on Tilok-U-Thit Rd., Phuket Town
- Robinsons-Ocean on Tilok-U-Thit Rd., Phuket Town
- Phuket Shopping Center on Rasada Rd., Phuket Town
- Ocean Department Store on Thaweewong Rd., Patong
- Ocean Plaza on Soi Bangla, Patong

Souvenir

Pearls, batiks, and pewter ware are Phuket's best known products. Shops that specialize in these are found on Rasada Rd., Phang-nga Rd., Montri Rd., Yaowarat Rd. and Tilok Utit I Rd. in town and tourist beaches such as Patong, Kata, Karon and Rawai.

Radio, Television and Communications

Phuket is served by the full complement of Thai television channels and has seven radio stations. Several of these have English language broadcasts.

- Radio Phuket, 07:30 - 10:00 p.m. and VOA 10:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m. nightly on FM 89. Tel. (076) 213 513, 213 532.
- Tourist Time, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sundays on FM 90.5. Interviews with local newsmakers and music. Tel. (076) 215 604.

The Public Telecommunications Office of Phuket is on Phang-nga Rd. in Phuket Town. Operated by the Communications Authority of Thailand (CAT), direct dial and operator assisted calls can be made from there, and collect or reverse charge calls when the need arises. Tel. (076) 216 861.

E-mail facilities are available from a number of private businesses:

- Phuket Internet, City Park Plaza, Phang-nga Rd., Phuket Town
- V.do. e-mail, Soi 4 Phang-nga Rd., Phuket Town
- Pizzadelic, in Patong.
- K S C, Rasada Rd., Phuket Town.
- Jairak Laser, Takuapa Rd., Phuket Town

Local Festivals and Culture

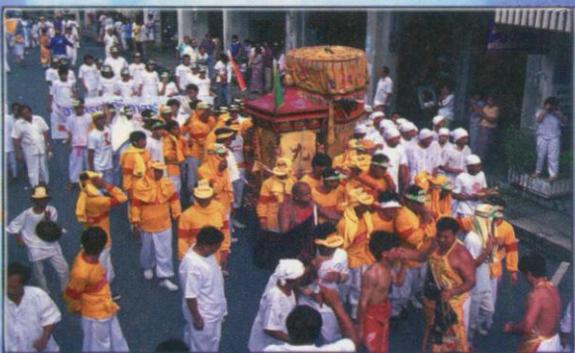
Thao Thep Krasatri-Thao Sri Suntorn Festival is held 13 March yearly in memory of the two heroines who led the defense of the island against the Burmese in 1785.

Turtle Release Fair is held on Songkran, the nationwide Thai water festival, on 13 April. This date is also National Fisherman's Day. Baby turtles are released into the sea at various locations.

Chao Lay Boat Floating Festival falls during the middle of the sixth and eleventh lunar months yearly. The fest is held at the Chao Lay, or Sea Gipsy, villages in Phuket. The Rawai and Sapam villages hold their ceremonies on the 13th; Sirey village celebrates on the 14th; and the village at Laem La (east of the bridge on Phuket's northern tip) celebrates on the 15th. Ceremonies, which center around the setting adrift of small boats similar to the Thai festival of Loy Krathong, are held at night and their purpose is to drive away evil and bring good luck. Fingernail clippings and strands of hair are put in the little boats before release, along with little dolls fashioned from wood. Afterwards, the villagers perform their famous dance round their own boats, called the Ram Rong Ngeng.

Por Tor Festival This is an ancestor's festival of the ethnic Chinese that falls on the seventh lunar month of the Chinese, which is the same as the ninth lunar month of the Thais. Special foods, flowers and candles are presented to the ancestors' altars. Cakes in the shape of turtles are made from flour, some quite large. This is done because turtles live to great age and it is believed that by making such offering worshippers may extend

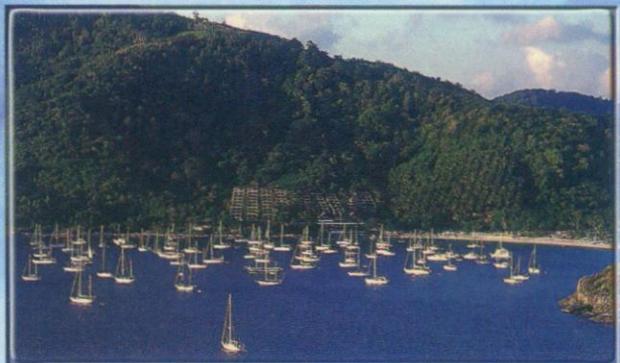
the length of their lives. It is an important merit-making festival.



Phuket Vegetarian Festival is held from the first through the ninth nights of the ninth Chinese lunar month; that is, in September or October. It was first celebrated in 1825, when a troupe of actors enacted these rites to ward off a plague. Vegetarian food is eaten by participants and white clothes worn during the period of the fest. Selfmutilization is practiced by those whose bodies become the temporary residence of powerful gods. Parades of worshippers brave fireworks while carrying images through the streets; others walk on fire or climb bladed ladders. Participants number in the thousands. The whole forms one of the most bizarre festivals in Thailand.

Laguna Phuket Triathlon This annual yearend event sees the world's top triathletes and hundreds of amateurs competing for prize money and placing on the world triathlon circuit. The course, which includes swimming, bicycling, and running through the beautiful natural surroundings of Laguna Phuket in Tambon Choeng Talay, takes from two-and-a-half to five hours to complete.

Tourist Season Opening Festival is usually called the Patong Carnival in English, from the place where celebrations occur, and is held starting 1 November. There are many stalls with merchandise and food; parades, sports events, and a beauty competition for foreign tourists. The fest is held to cement solidarity among the government, the private business sector, and the people.



Phuket King's Cup Regatta was first held in 1987 in honour of His Majesty's 60th birthday. The King of Thailand is a noted boating enthusiast and yachts come from around the world to participate in the competition, which is the largest and most popular in Southeast Asia. It is held yearly on the anniversary of His Majesty's birthday, 5 December. Site of the regatta is Nai Harn Bay.

Local Dishes

Phuket has a number of foods different in character and flavour from those of other areas in Thailand. The international character of the island, however, with so many different restaurants catering to a multitude of tastes, makes it difficult for non-Thais to identify Phuket cuisine. Below is a list of dishes and shops where they can be sampled.

Mee Hokkian yellow egg noodles stir-fried with leafy green vegetables in soy sauce, usually with pork or chicken. The best known shops are:

- **Mee Ton Poh** (หมี่ตันโพธิ์) near the clock tower traffic circle on Phuket Rd. in Phuket Town.
- **Mee Sapam** (หมี่สะปำ) on Thep Krasatri Rd. in the village of Sapam.
- **Mee Ao Geh** (หมี่อ่าวเก) on Phunphol Rd. in Phuket Town.

Yellow noodles are also cooked in both 'dry' and 'wet' versions, and as a prawn soup. For these try:

- **Somjit** (ร้านหมี่สมจิต) near the clocktower traffic circle on Phuket Rd.
- **Jirayuwat** (ร้านหมี่จิราภรณ์) near the Pearl Cinema on Phang-nga Rd. in Phuket Town.

Mee Huhn Pah Chahng (หมี่หุนป้าฉ่าง) Dry fried noodles eaten with pork bone soup. For this try (all in Phuket Town):

- -(ร้านหมี่หุ้นป้าด่าง) on Thanon Yaowarat.
- -(ร้านหมี่หุ้นป้าด่าง) near the Tessaban Ban Bang Niao School on Takua Tung Rd.
- -(ร้านหมี่หุ้นป้าด่าง) on Ranong Rd. near the entrance to Soi Lorong.

Mee Sua (หมี่สู) Breakfast noodles served with the boiled rice dishes Khao Tohm or Johk. This can be ordered at various shops around town, but the best known in Phuket Town is:

- -Kou Kwan (ร้านคุ้งวัญ) near Ruampaet Hospital on Phuket Rd.

Kanohm Jin Phuket (ขنمจีน) Noodles often compared to spaghetti usually served with a spicy curry sauce, the most common made from fish. It is usually eaten as a breakfast food and is, if you can stand its fiery character, delicious. It comes with an array of fresh vegetables and boiled eggs that are mixed with the dish by diners at their table. It is often found with the fried pastry called Pah Tong Go and the curried fish mousse called Hor Mohk, both of which are very tasty. Some of the curries are not spicy, so try a shop that has many curries to choose from if you are sensitive to spicy cuisine. There are many shops to choose from everywhere in Phuket but the most famous are in Phuket Town:

- -Kwan Kanohm Jin (ร้านขวยขنمจีน) on Tungka Rd.
- -Pah Mai (ร้านป้าไม่) on Satun Rd.
- -Pah Ri (ร้านป้ารี) on Pahtipah Rd.

Lo Bah (โลบะ) Fried sausages served with fried tofu and spicy sweet and sour sauce. For this try (in Phuket Town):

- -(ร้านโลบะ) on the way to Sapan Hin
- -(ร้านแบงส่องโลบะ) on Poonphol Rd.

Oh Tao (โอเต้า) Oysters fried with flour, eggs, and taro root. The best known places in Phuket Town are:

- -(ร้านโอเต้า) near the Tessaban Ban Bang Niao school
- -(ร้านโอเต้า) near the circle by the Fresh Market.

Nam Prik Goong Sohd (น้ำพริกกุ้งสด) Spicy shrimp paste with fresh shrimp, chili, and lime. Eaten with rice or Kanohm Jin. Nam Prik comes in various forms; it is generally regarded by Thais to be as indispensable as rice.

Nam Prik Goong Siab (น้ำพริกกุ้งเสียบ) Similar to the above but featuring whole, dried shrimps and eaten with various vegetables as an appetizer. Among the spiciest dishes in Thailand. Most restaurants that prepare food according to order- -as opposed to little shops serving only a set menu- -make nam prik goong siab. The best known are in Phuket Town:

- -Mae Porn (ร้านแม่พรา) on Phang-nga Rd.
- -Laem Tong Restaurant (ภัตตาคารแหลมทอง) on Chana Jaroen Rd.
- -Kuhn Mae Ju (ร้านคุณแม่จู) on Thep Krasatri Rd. in the village of Sapam.
- -Lai An Lao (ร้านไลอันแลว) on Rasada Rd.
- -N.C. Restaurant on Phang-nga Rd.

Tao Sor (ขنمเด้าส้อ) or Kanohm Bia Phuket (ขنمเปี้ยงกฎ็ท) Spring rolls, Chinese crepes. The best known are found at:

- -Kaeng Tin (คงติน) near Ruam Paet Hospital on Phuket Rd.
- -(ร้านเด้าส้อ) on Soi Suhn Utit, Yaowarat Rd. in Phuket Town.
- -Kuhn Mae Ju (คุณแม่จู) on Thep Krasatri Rd. in the village of Sapam
- -Mae Boon Tahm (แม่บุญธรรม) on Surin Rd., Soi 4.

Oh Aew (โอ๊ะเอ็ว) An iced sweet made of flour, banana, and a little seaweed. Look for it at:

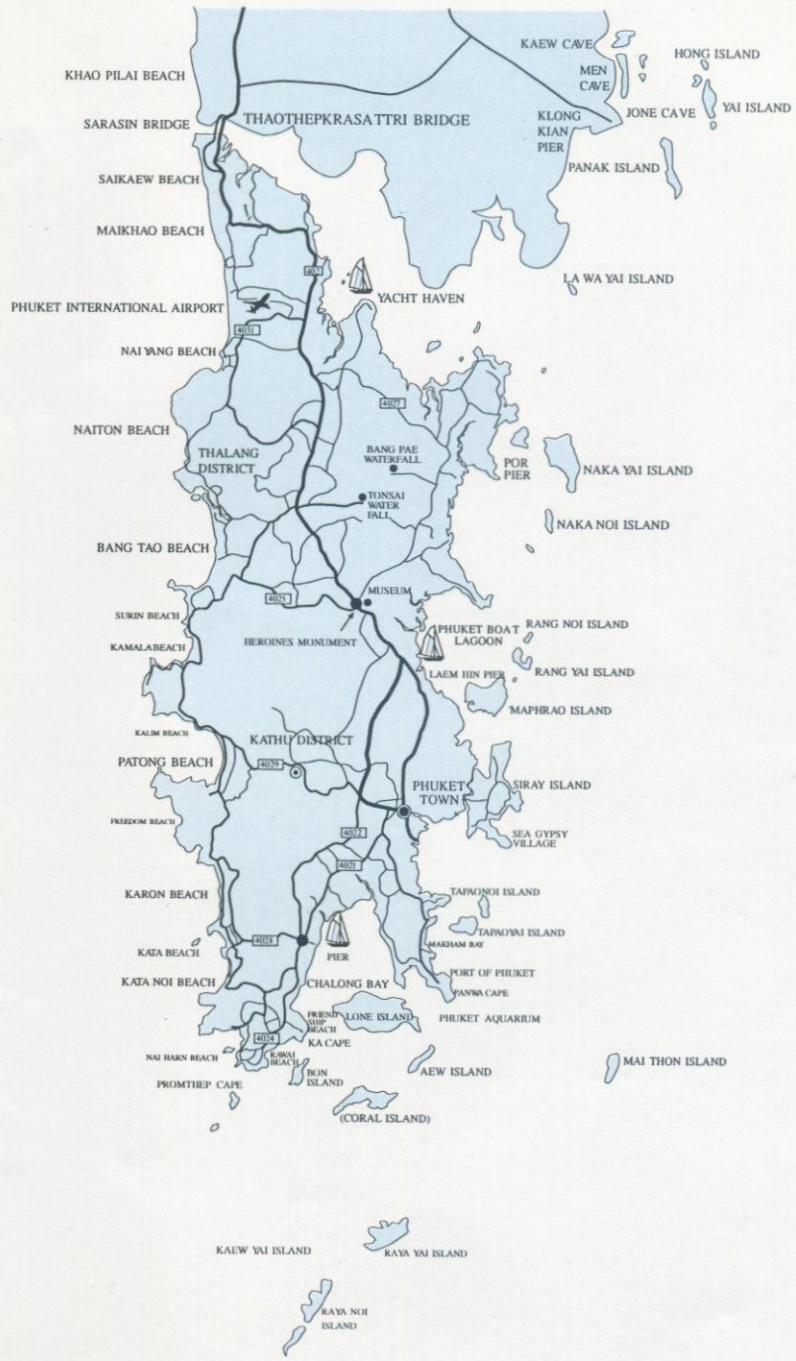
- -(ร้านโอ๊ะเอ็ว) on Soi Soon Utit, Yaowarat Rd.
- -(ร้านโอ๊ะเอ็ว) on Ranong Rd. at the entrance to Soi Lorong.

Other foods held to be characteristic of Phuket include cashew nuts, which are planted along many of Phuket's highways, and pineapples- -though to be crisper and sweeter than elsewhere.

Cashew nuts (เม็ดมะม่วงหิมพานต์) try at :

- -Maeti (เมธี) on Tilok Utit 2 Rd.
- -Sri Boorapa Orchid (ศรีบูรพาօอคิด) on Takua Tung Rd. and Kwang Ban Teen Kao Rd.
- -Sri Supalak Orchid (ศรีสุภลักษณ์օอคิด) on Thepkrasattri Rd.

Pineapples can be purchased in the Fresh Market, and are found generally.

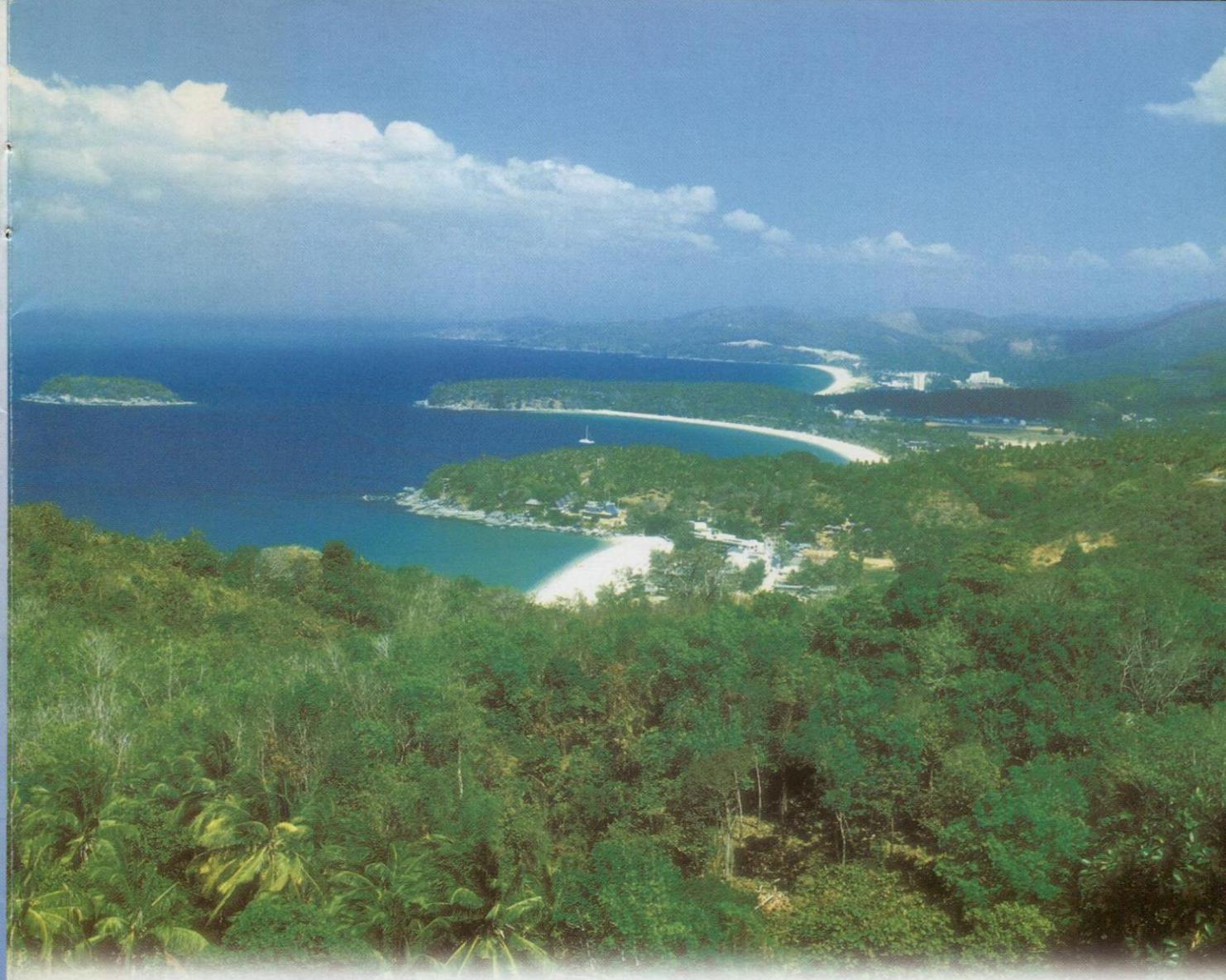




Produced by :

Tourism Authority of Thailand.

Southern Office : Region 4 (Phuket-Phang Nga-Krabi)
73-75 Phuket Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand.
Tel : (076) 212213, 211036 Fax : 66 76 213582
E-mail : tathkt@phuket.ksc.co.th



PHUKET

TOURIST INFORMATION

Useful Telephone Numbers in Phuket

- Emergency calls / 199
- Fire Brigade / (076) 211111, 199
- Immigration (076) 212108
- International Airport / (076) 327230-7
- Marine Police / 211883
- Overseas Phone Service / 100
- Phone Directory Assistance / 13
- Police / (076) 212046, 212115
- Post Office / (076) 211020
- Thai Airways / (076) 211195,
212499, 212946
- Tourism Authority of Thailand /
(076) 212213, 211036, 217138
- Tourist Police / 1699

HOSPITALS

- ADVENTIST HOSPITAL (MISSION).....211173
- EMERGENCIES.....211173 Call 130**
- BANGKOK PHUKET HOSPITAL.....254421/29
- EMERGENCIES.....254421/29 Call 1060/2**
- KATHU PATONG HOSPITAL.....340444
- PAET SOMPOJ HOSPITAL.....214428
- PHUKET INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL....249400
- EMERGENCIES.....210935**
- PHYA THAI PHUKET HOSPITAL.....252603/6
- EMERGENCIES.....252603/6 Call 1142, 1144**
- RUAM PAET HOSPITAL.....211578
- EMERGENCIES.....217965**
- THALANG HOSPITAL.....311033/4
- VACHIRA PHUKET HOSPITAL.....217294/8

Phuket

Island has a long recorded history, and remains dating back to A.D. 1025 indicate that the island's present day name derives in meaning from the *Tamil manikram*, or *crystal mountain*. For most of history, however, it was known as *Junk Ceylon*, which, with variations, is the name found on old maps. The name is thought to have its roots in Ptolemy's *Geographia*, written by the Alexandrian geographer in the Third Century A.D. He mentioned that in making a trip from *Suannapum* to the Malay Peninsula it was necessary to pass the cape of *Jang Si Lang*.

Phuket was a way station on the route between India and China where seafarers stopped to shelter. The island appears to have been part of the Shivate empire (called in Thai the Tam Porn Ling) that established itself on the Malay Peninsula during the first Millenium A.D. Later, as Muang Takua-Talang, it was part of the Srivichai and Siri Tahm empires. Governed as the eleventh in a constellation of twelve cities, Phuket's emblem, by which it was known to others in those largely pre-literate times, was the dog.

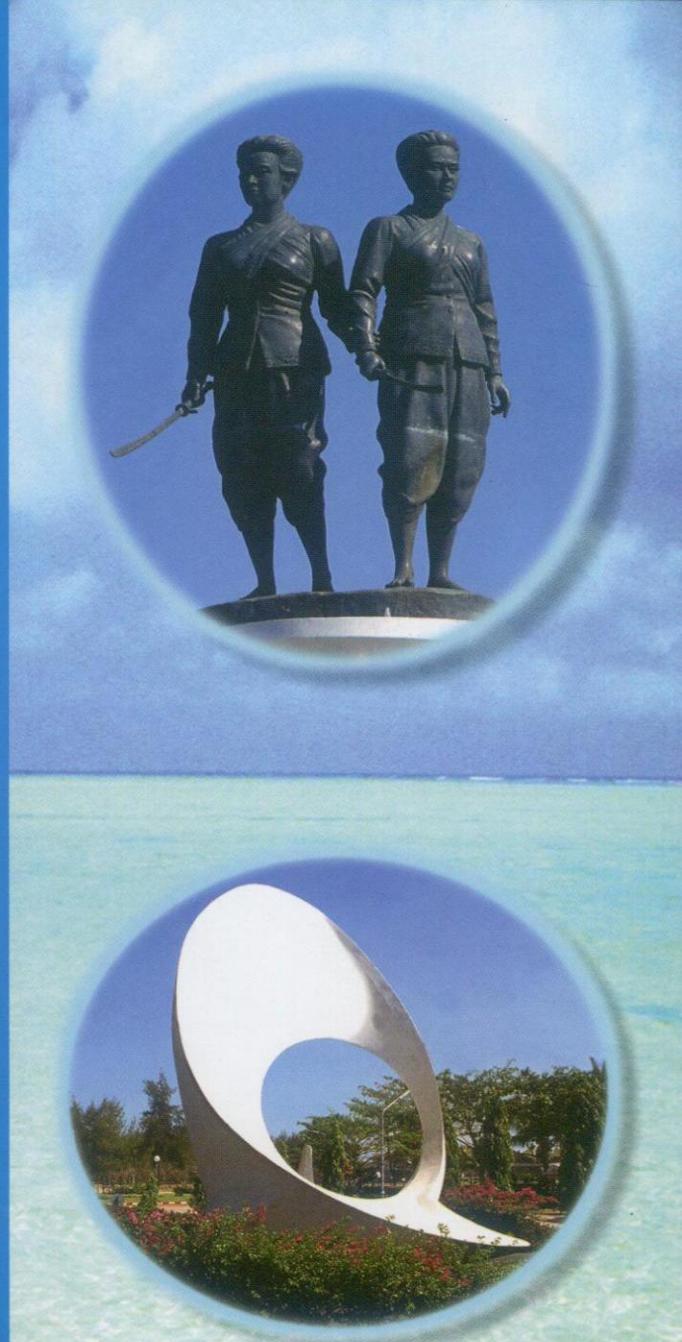
During the Sukothai Period Phuket was associated with Takua Pah in what is now Phang-nga Province, another area with vast tin reserves. The Dutch established a trading post during the Ayuthaya Period in the 16th Cent. The island's northern and central regions then were governed by the Thais, and the southern and western parts were given over to the tin trade, a concession in the hands of foreigners.

After Ayuthaya was sacked by the Burmese in 1767 there was a short interregnum in Thailand, ended by King Taksin, who drove out the Burmese and re-unified the country. The Burmese, however, were anxious to return to the offensive. They outfitted a fleet to raid the southern provinces, and carry off the populations to slavery in Burma. This led to Phuket's most memorable historic event. A passing sea captain, Francis Light, sent word that the Burmese were en route to attack. Forces in Phuket were assembled led by the two heroines, Kunying Jan, wife of Phuket's recently deceased governor, and her sister Mook. After a month's siege the Burmese were forced to depart on 13 March, 1785. Kunying Jan and her sister were credited with the successful defense.

In recognition King Rama I bestowed upon Kunying Jan the honorific *Thao Thep Kasatri*, a title of nobility usually reserved for royalty, by which she is known today. Her sister became *Thao Sri Suntorn*.

During the Nineteenth Century Chinese immigrants arrived in such numbers to work the tin mines that the ethnic character of the island's interior became predominantly Chinese, while the coastal settlements remained populated chiefly by Muslim fishermen.

In Rama V's reign, Phuket became the administrative center of a group of tin mining provinces called Monton Phuket, and in 1933, with the change in government from absolute monarchy to a parliamentary system, the island was established as a province by itself.



RED FLAG AT THE BEACH DO NOT SWIM

USE THE SERVICE OF ONLY REGISTERED TRAVEL AGENTS, YOU HAVE LEGAL RIGHTS UNDER THAI LAW.

Location and Boundaries

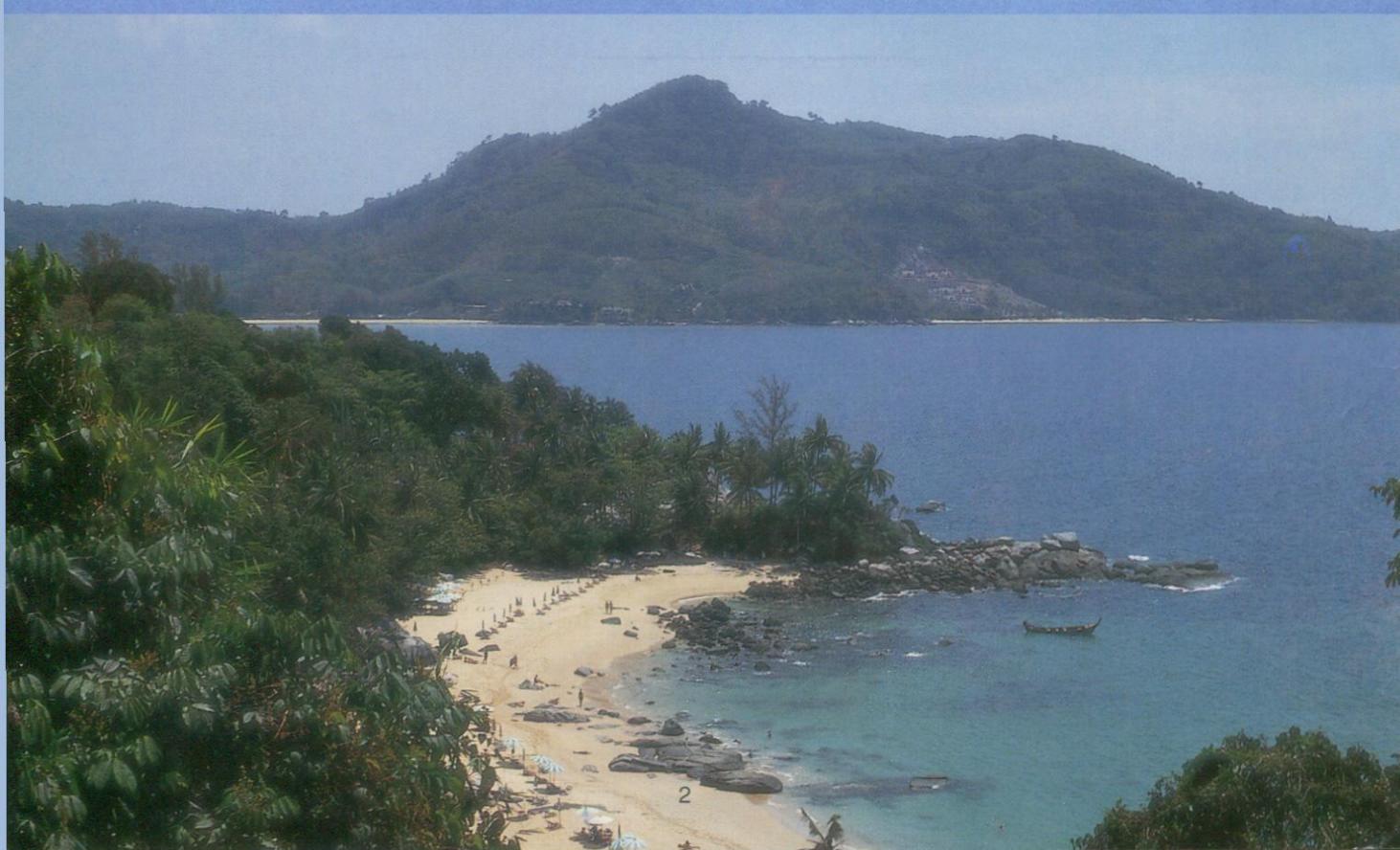
Phuket is an island connected by bridges to southern Thailand's Andaman Sea coast, in the Indian Ocean, lying between 7° 45" and 8° 15" north latitude, and from 98° 15" to 98° 40" west longitude on the map. Thailand's largest island, Phuket is surrounded by 32 smaller islands that form part of the same administration, with a total area of 570 square kilometers. Measured at its widest point, Phuket is 21.3 kilometers; at its longest, 48.7 kilometers. It is bounded thus:

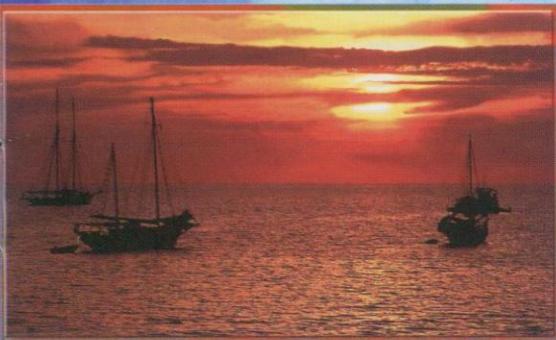
On the North: Lies the Pak Prah Strait, spanned by two bridges running side-by-side, the older Sarasin Bridge, and the newer Thao Thep Krasatri Bridge.

On the South: Is the Andaman Sea.

On the East: Is Ao Phang-nga Bay (In the jurisdiction mainly of Phang-nga Province).

On the West: Is the Andaman Sea.





Geography

About 70 percent of Phuket is mountainous; a western range runs from north to south from which smaller branches derive. The highest peak is Mai Tao Sip Song, or Twelve Canes, at 529 meters, which lies within the boundaries of Tambon Patong, Kathu District (no roads go there yet). The remaining 30 percent of the island, mainly in the center and south, is formed by low plains. Streams include the Klong Bang Yai, Klong Ta Jin, Klong Ta Rua, and Klong Bang Rohng, none of which is large.



Climate

Phuket's weather conditions are dominated by monsoon winds that blow year round. It is therefore always warm and humid. There are two distinct seasons, rainy and dry. The rainy season begins in May and lasts till October, during which the monsoon blows from the southwest. The dry season is from November through April, when the monsoon comes from the northeast. Highest average temperatures, at 33.4 degrees Celsius, prevail during March. Lowest averages occur in January, when nightly lows dip to 22 degrees Celsius.

Economy

Since the early 1980's the tourist business has been Phuket's chief source of income. Hotels, restaurants, tour companies, and souvenir shops are much in evidence on the west coast. However, while once all-important tin mining has ceased, tourism is by no means the island's only activity. Agriculture remains important to a large number of people, and covers by far the most part of the island. Principal crops are rubber, coconuts, cashews, and pineapples. Prawn farming has largely taken over the east and south coasts. Pearl farming is also important. Phuket's fishing port is at all times filled, and processing of marine products, mainly fish, makes a significant contribution to the economy.

With so many healthy industries supplying income, construction has become a major factor in employment. This ranges from massive public works projects, large office buildings and hotels, and housing estates with hundreds of units, down to single family homes, apartments and additions.

Population

Official population as of August, 2002, was 268,440. This figure numbers those who are registered as living in Phuket. Phuket's attraction as a center of economic activity has resulted in many living on the island whose registration is elsewhere. The total population of Phuket varies considerably depending on the time of year, though it is never less than the figure given above.

Government

The island is divided into three districts, Talang in the north, Kathu in the west, and Muang in the south. Thailand's system of government relies upon a strong central authority, thus the Provincial Governor is a civil servant appointed by the Interior Ministry in Bangkok, as are the Nai Amper, or District Chief. The cities of Phuket and Patong have their own city governments, with elected city councils, the leading members of which serve as mayor. There are also elected provincial, district, and sub-district, or Tambon councils. The local constabulary is part of the Interior Ministry.

Travel

By car : Take Route 4 from Bangkok south. Along the way pass the provinces of Nakorn Pathom, Ratchburi, Petchburi, Prajuab-Kirikan, and at Chumphon go right to Ranong. From Ranong, go south through Kraburi and Kah-Perr districts to Phang-nga Province. In Phang-nga the road passes through Kuraburi, Takua Pa, and Takua Tung districts before reaching the town of Kok Kloy, just beyond which is the Tao Thep Krasatri Bridge and Phuket. Distance is 867 kilometers.

By Coach : Both air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned buses leave the Southern Bus Terminal in Bangkok daily. For details call the individual bus companies : Borisat Kohn Sohng Jumkat Phuket Transport Co, Ltd., in Bangkok tel. (02) 4351200, or in Phuket (076) 211 480; Borisat Phuket Central Tour, in Bangkok tel. (02) 4343233, or in Phuket (076) 213 615, 214 335; Phuket Travel Service, in Bangkok tel. (02) 435 5018, 435 5034, or in Phuket (076)

222 107-9

By Air : Details about flights to and from Phuket International Airport can be obtained from Thai Airways, in Bangkok Tel. (02) 280 0070, 280 0080, or in Phuket (076) 211 195, 212 499, 212 946; Bangkok Airways in Bangkok Tel. 02 2293434 or in Phuket Tel. 076 225033-4; or from travel agents around the world. There are also many regular and chartered flights from other airlines

By Sea : The Deep Sea Port (Port of Phuket) at Phuket is visited by both cargo and cruise ships from Thailand and from abroad. Contact your travel agent for information about the many different ships that stop at Phuket.

Places of Interest in Muang District

Kao Rang (เขารัง) A great view of Phuket Town, the southern part of the island, and some of the offshore islands, can be obtained by going to the top of Kao Rang Hill, on the city's northwest. There are also several restaurants featuring spectacular views of the city, a health park for exercise enthusiasts, and a comfortable, expanse of grass for picnickers at the top with a bronze statue of Phraya Ratsada Nupradit the model Governor of Phuket during King Rama V's reign.



Antique Buildings (ตึกเก่า)

The beginning of the tin boom during the Nineteenth Century led to construction of many fine old mansions and shops still well preserved. The architectural style, typical of the region, is described as Sino-Portuguese, and has a strongly Mediterranean character. Shops present a very narrow face on the street but stretch back a long way. Many, especially on Dibuk Rd., have old wooden doors with Chinese fretwork carving. Other streets, forming what might be called 'Old Phuket', with similar structures are Phang-nga, Yaowarat, Thalang, and Krabi, and a walking tour of the area is easy and delightful. Some other old European-style buildings of note are the Provincial Hall (Sala Klang), the Phuket Courthouse (San Jahngwaht), and Nakorn Luang Thai Bank.

Phuket Aquarium (พิพิธภัณฑ์สัตว์น้ำ)

More than one-hundred species of sea life are on display at the aquarium, many of them taken from the waters around Phuket. Open daily, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., the aquarium is located at Cape Panwa, on the island's extreme southeast; admission is 5 baht for children and 20 baht for adults. A Songtaew (local bus) can be taken from the Talad Soht, or Fresh Market. Tel. (076) 391 126.

Phuket Butterfly Farm and insect world (สวนผึ้งและโลกแมลงภูเก็ต)

Tropical species of butterflies, other insects, and many kinds of marine life are on display. Located in Sam Kong, about 3 kms. from downtown Phuket (see map). Open daily, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Tel. (076) 215 616, 210 861.

Thai Village and Orchid Farm (หมู่บ้านไทยและสวนกล้วยไม้) A show of Thai dance, handicrafts, culture, elephants and a demonstration of old time tin-mining takes place among the orchids. Located in Sam Kong, about 3 kms. from downtown Phuket (see map). The morning showing starts at 05:00 a.m., 02:00 p.m., the evening showing at 05:30 p.m. Tel. (076) 214 860, 237 400

Sapan Hin (สะพานหิน) A land reclamation project provided abundant new land now used for parks and public facilities at Sapan Hin, located where Phuket Rd. meets the sea in Phuket Town. In the circle is the The Tin Mining Monument, shaped like a large drill bit, dedicated to the memory of Captain Edward Thomas Miles, the Australian who brought the first tin dredge to Phuket in 1909. The monument was built in 1969 on the occasion of 60 th anniversary of tin dredging in Phuket. The Sport Center is located in the park.

Sirey Island (เกาะสีเร่) Separated from the mainland of Phuket by the Klong Ta Jin, a shallow mangrove swamp, this twenty square kilometer island is connected by a causeway to the city. Wat Koh Sirey, on the hill, has a large Reclining Buddha and provides fine views of the surroundings. Phuket's largest settlement of Sea

Gipsies, or Chao Lay, are on Koh Sirey at Laem Tuk-kae. Swimming is not good because of the muddy bottom. There are some popular seafood restaurants on the eastern shore.

Chalong Temple (วัดแหลม) is about 8 kms. outside town. Take Vichit Songkram Rd. to the Bypass Rd. and turn left, and drive for about 10 mins. Wat Chalong will be on your left. This is where stands the cast statue of Luang Por Cham, who helped the people of Phuket put down the Ahngyee, or Chinese Coolie, Rebellion in 1876 during the reign of Rama V. There are also statues of Luang Por Chuang, and Luang Por Gluam, other monks, who were abbots of the temple during later times, and who are the objects of respect and recipients of offerings by Phuket people generally.

Chalong Bay (อ่าวแหลม) Phuket's principal boat anchorage and the island's largest bay. Ao Chalong has a long, flat, shallow, muddy bottom; at ebbtide, waters recede as much as one kilometer. It is very picturesque but useless for swimming. Most visitors to the islands south of Phuket depart from Chalong pier, and the bay's restaurants are well known for their seafood. Charters to various places can be arranged from there, and it is the center of the island's yachting businesses. To get there take Jao Fah Tawan Tok Rd. or Jao Fah Tawan Okk Rd. to Chalong Circle, often called the Ha Yaek, or Five Ways, because it is a five-way intersection. The pier and a number of restaurants are located on the short road leading to the beach from the circle.

Phuket Sea Shell Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์หอย) Perhaps the world's most valuable collection of seashells has been put on display at Phuket Seashell near Rawai Beach on the island's southwestern shores. The emphasis is on shells from Phuket



and Thai waters, which are among the most sought-after by collectors, however shells from every part of the world are featured. Wherever they originate, each shell in the Shell Museum is the best of its type--very often the only of its type. Displays have been created in a logical order, and visitors can see at once differing characteristics among related species. There are numerous rarities and freaks including the world's largest golden pearl (140 karats), large sections of sedimentary rock containing shell fossils that represent the earth's earliest life-forms, and a shell that weighs 250 kilograms. One of the world's great private museums, the Shell Museum is open daily from 8:00 a.m. till 7:00 p.m. For details call 381 888

Ka Cape (แหลมก้า) is a popular stop for Thai visitors to the island. Located at the extreme southwest of Chalong Bay. South of the point is Laem Kah Beach, a sandy strip dotted with rocks and boulders. Okay for swimming, but watch out for coral close in. The extensive coral reefs off shore make for interesting snorkeling mornings, when the waters are clear. Bungalows, Thai food, and boat charters to the islands are available. Laem Kah is 7 kms. west of Chalong Circle (see map).

Rawai Beach (หาดราวย์) Site of a Chao Ley or Sea Gipsy village, many restaurants and bungalows, shell handicraft shops, and both fishing and charter boats. The waters are okay for swimming; snorkeling on the reefs off shore. Rawai is 7 kms. west of Chalong Circle (see map).

Prom Thep Cape (แหลมพรหมเทพ) 'Prom' is Thai for the Hindu 'Brahma' signifying purity, and 'Thep' means 'God'. Promthepe is a headland stretching in to the sea and forming the extreme south-end of Phuket. It has been a prominent feature for mariners since of early seafarers from the sub-continent, remains of whose journey's have been found all along the Malay-peninsula's west coast.

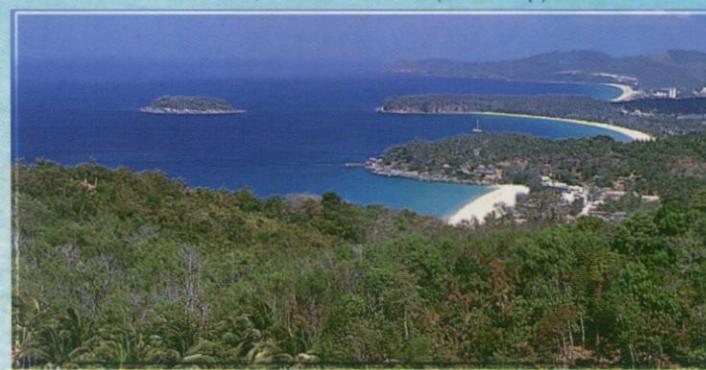
From Rawai Beach turn right and go for 2 kms.



The cape has tall cliffs on the south, and was formerly called by local villagers 'Laem Jao' (The Gods' Cape). From the cliffs running down to the boulders at the sea is a line of toddy palm trees. Emerald green currents swirl in the deep water and breakers hurl themselves in vain against the rocky point: it is one of Phuket's most inspiring vistas. In the distance can be seen Koh Gaew. From Promthepe Cape, which is the most beautiful place to catch Phuket's famous sunset, a road leads northwest to Nai Harn Beach.

Nai Harn Beach (หาดในหาน) A popular swimming beach and yacht anchorage during the dry season. The beach is fine, but big waves strike it during the wet season, making swimming dangerous. Regular bus service to and from Phuket Town during daytime. Nai Harn is just north of Prom Thep (see map).

Sehn Bay (อ่าวเสน) A small bay with many rocks and corals. Snorkeling and diving are okay, but swimming without a mask could be dangerous among the corals. For sunbathers, this secluded, curving strand north of Nai Harn offers some privacy. A small open air restaurant supplies food and drink. Cheap bungalows are located just west of the beach. To get there go through the parking lot of the Phuket Yacht Club hotel and follow the road to Ao Sehn, about 1/2 km (see map).



View Point (จุดชมวิว) From this point can be seen the bays of Kata Noi, Kata, and Karon, and also Koh Poo Island. It is one of the island's best views. A large public sala, or shelter is there for visitors, and several vendors sell food, drinks, and souvenirs in the area when the weather is nice. The Viewpoint is between Kata and Nai Harn (see map).

Kata Beach (หาดกะตะ) The smallest of Phuket's three main tourist beaches, Kata is different in appearance and style from Karon or Patong. The beach itself is broad and curving, and structures bordering it are low-rise. The waters are perfect for swimming, and at the north end is a coral reef with many varied corals and fishes which stretches out toward Koh Poo Is., about 1/2 km off shore. Facilities, for every price range, include hotels, bungalows, tour companies, restaurants, bars and clubs. Regular bus service to and from Phuket Town during daytime.

Kata Noi Beach (หาดกะตะน้อย) South of Kata is Kata Noi, a smaller beach with only a few hotels and little other development. The beach is superb. Many fish inhabit the rocks and corals along the beachless shoreline stretching south. To get there take the narrow beach road up over the hill from Kata (see map).

Karon Beach (หาดกะรน) The second largest of Phuket's principal tourist beaches. Large resort complexes line the road back of the beach, but the strand itself, long and broad, has no development. The sand is very white, and squeaks audibly when walked on. The southern point has a fine coral reef stretching toward Kata and Poo Island. Restaurants, bars, tour companies and other non-hotel businesses are at the north end, near the traffic circle, and at the south, on the little road connecting the back road with the beach road. The narrow road between Kata and Karon has a number of small businesses as well as the Dino Park Mini Golf facility. Karon is the most up-scale of Phuket's beaches. Regular daytime bus service to and from Phuket Town.

Mai Ton Island (เกาะไม้ท่อน) This tiny island off Phuket's southeast coast is highly prized for its still perfect natural environment, including fine white beaches and crystal waters; ideal for swimming, diving, or fishing. The only business of any kind is the plush Maiton Island Resort. Those not wishing to stay overnight may take a daytime excursion leaving from Ao Makam Deep Sea Port. For details contact (076) 214954-7

Tapao Yai Island (เกาะตะเก่าใหญ่) 10

minutes from Phuket by ferry from Ao Makam on Phuket's southeast coast. The island is home to the Bucerotes hornbill. To get there from Phuket Town take Jao Fah Rd. to the Sakdidet Rd. intersection, turn left on Sakdidet and follow it 8 kms. to Ao Makam. The road splits in the vicinity of oil storage facilities; take the left fork about 200 meters to the Koh Tapao ferry pier. (see map).

Kaew Island (เกาะแก้ว) A fine beach,

natural surroundings, and coral are on this little island 3 kms. from Rawai, south of Prom Thep. There is also a giant statue of the Buddha. The island is 15 minutes by chartered boat from Rawai (see map).

Lohn Island (เกาะโล้น) This large,

mountainous island is only 20 minutes by regular passenger boat from Chalong Bay, in the south of Phuket. The mainly Muslim inhabitants engage in fishing, rubber and coconut planting. There is a long stretch of beach on the northeast coast. Boats to Koh Lohn leave daily in the early morning from Chalong Pier (see map).

Coral Island or Hey Island (เกาะเชย) This

island off Phuket's south coast is so well known for its coral reef that it is often referred to simply as Coral Island. In addition to the splendid reefs there are two fine beaches on the north and west. Koh Heh is part of a marine preserve, but accommodations, restaurants, various watersports, and diving are all available. Boats leave from Rawai and Chalong. There are also package tours available.



Raya (or Racha) Islands (หมู่เกาะรา耶) Two islands running roughly northeast to southwest off Phuket's southern coast.

- **Raya Yai Island** (เกาะร้ายใหญ่) On the west coast is a fine beach closed in by the hills that stretch away from it like two arms of a horseshoe called alternately Ao Tawan Tok or Ao Bungalow. The sands are sparkling clean and the waters crystal clear like those of the Similan Islands. From the top of a hill on the bay's south is a view point from which the whole island can be seen. On the east, at Ao Kon Kae Bay, is a coral reef where diving is excellent.

- **Raya Noi Island** (เกาะร้ายน้อย) This island, 10 kms. from Koh Raya Yai, is the result of coral reef build up, and there are more rocks than beaches. In a small bay on the west is a boat anchorage. The waters at Koh Raya Noi are emerald green, and fishing is famous, but swimming is not advised.

To get there contact a charter boat at Ao Chalong or Rawai, or go to a travel agent for details on package tours to the islands. By long-tailed boat, the travel time is about two hours. Larger boats operated by tour companies will make the trip in about one hour. Travel to the Racha Islands is restricted to the dry season and periods when the monsoon is not blowing.

Koh Rahng Yai lying off Phuket's east coast, this small island has been developed for the out-of-

doors minded tourist. Among the many activities are sea kayaking, mountain-biking, playing miniature golf, and visiting the island's pearl farm. For travel to Koh Rahng Yai, boats may be hired from Laem Hin Pier, just outside Phuket Town before the town of Sapam or from Phuket boat Lagoon. Package tours are available from Richy Island Tour, tel. 238 163, and other tour agencies.

Places of Interest in Kathu District

Patong Beach (หาดป่าตอง) This is Phuket's central tourist and night time entertainment district. Over the years, Patong has turned from a fishing village into one of the island's two cities. The famous bay and 4 km. beach remain as they were, with development limited to the area back of the beach road. There, however, virtually every kind of entertainment imaginable awaits visitors, with bars catering to every nationality. Live music can be found in many places, and there are also discotheques. Accommodations range from budget to five-star. Shopping opportunities appear to be endless. Whatever one's culinary disposition, a restaurant catering to it will be found. In addition, there are many tour companies waiting to help visitors plan their vacations. Some of the options available are listed below, but Patong is thick with everything. There's saying locally, "If you can't find it in Patong, it doesn't exist in Phuket," which, if not entirely true, about sums it up.





Among the larger attractions are :

- **Pirate's Cove Miniature Golf** 36 holes of miniature golf. 2 courses to choose from : The Jungle Course or Blackbeard's Challenge. Internationally rated; fast food restaurant and bar. Located on Song Roi Pi Rd., the next road back from the beach, next to Holiday Inn Hotel. Tel. (076) 342 951; open 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

- **Phuket Water Ski Cableways** An inland water skiing course on a man-made lake. Skiers are pulled round the oval track at speeds of up to 30 kph by overhead cables. Instruction is free for beginners. Located over the hill northeast of Patong at 86/3 Moo 6 Soi Nam Tok Kathu, near Kathu Waterfall (see map). Tel. (076) 202 525-7; open daily 9:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

- **Simon Cabaret** This transvestite show features dozens of gorgeously appared boys dancing and lipsynching to popular songs. Costumes, choreography and pacing are very impressive; sound system and staging are state-of-the-art. Two shows nightly. Tel. (076) 342 011-5 Located on the Patong-Karon road (see map).

- **Tarzan's Jungle Bungy Jump** Jump from the top of a 53 m crane toward a pond while connected to a long elastic bungy cord; very exhilarating. Fully insured. Note : This is not recommended for the aged, the infirm, or those with chronic heart problems. Food and drink in a park-like atmosphere. Tel. (076) 321 351.

Located over the hill northeast of Patong at 61/3 Moo 6 on the road to Phuket Town.

- **Tarzan's Catapult Bungy** This uses an elastic cord similar to the one mentioned above, but relies upon a catapult to shoot customers up in the air. Mobile Tel. 01-464 1581. Located on Soi

Sunset at Patong Beach, near the Expat Hotel.

- **Patong Go-kart Speedway** A well planned raceway and high-powdered go-carts await carting enthusiasts. Food and drink in the pits. Tel. (076) 321949; open 10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Located over the hill northeast of Patong at 118/5 Vichit Songkram Rd., near Kathu District Office

- **Horror House** at Patong, features scence from 16 famous horror movies. Open 5.00 p.m. - 12.00 p.m. Tel. (076) 293123

Kalim Beach (หาดกะลิม) This beach is really a continuation north of Patong's strand, from which it is separated by some rocks. It is not yet developed and thus affords some privacy. Back of the beach are accommodations. The waters contain extensive coral reefs.

Kamala Beach (หาดกมลา) Kamala is a Muslim fishing village north of Patong. Tourist development on the beach much of which is covered by a Muslim graveyard and a police outpost has been slow in coming. Buffalo herds still come down to the beach to cool off in the afternoon. The beach is beautiful and about 2 kms. in length. There are accommodations ranging from guesthouse to international class, and a number of small Thai restaurants specializing in seafood for the tourist. Kamala is the perfect place to get away from it all and has little to offer in the way of entertainment for that go across the mountains to Patong. Regular bus service to and from Phuket Town during daytime; tuk-tuk service available to Patong, 5 kms. away on the new road.

Phuket Fantasea The ultimate cultural theme park was constructed on 300 rai of land at Kamala Beach, about 9 kilometers north of Patong on the island's rim road. Fantasea represents a new dimension in nighttime entertainment, using ultra-high technology to create fantastic illusions and special effects for shows centering on Thai legends featuring hundreds of performers and dancers in gorgeous attire. There are also animal performances, the most prominent being a large troupe of trained elephants. in 3,000 seat theatre. Other features include a fanciful village where souvenirs are displayed, a 4,000 seat restaurant serving Thai & international cuisine. For details and information about tickets call tel. (076) 385000

Places of Interest in Thalang District

Thalang National Museum (พิพิธภัณฑ์แห่งชาติทั朗)

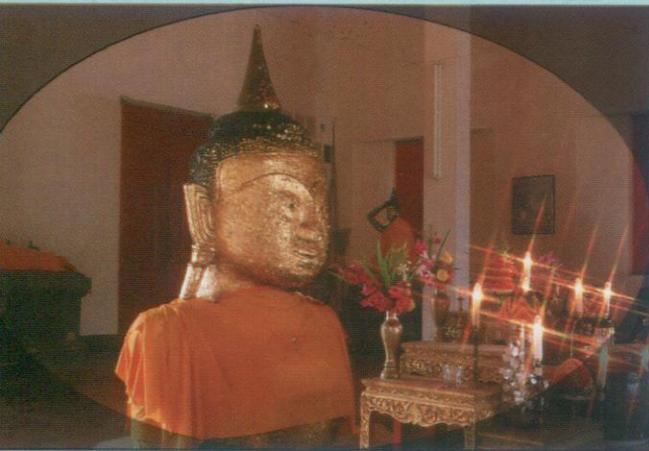
Ancient artifacts from Phuket's long history are on display; the oldest were found on the west coast. In addition there are exhibits detailing the famous Battle of Thalang involving the Two Heroines, daily life in Phuket, and the Sea Gipsy culture.

Tel. (076) 311025, 311426; open daily except holidays
9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Admission : 30 baht Located just east
of the Two Heroines Monument on the Pa Khlok Rd.

Naka Noy Island this small, quiet island with fine sandy beaches lies just off Phuket's northeast shore. Waters are suitable for swimming. One item of interest at Koh Naka Noy not found in many other places is its pearl farm. Boats can be hired from Ao Por Pier, off Pa Khlok Rd., for travel to Koh Naka Noy, and package trips are available at tour agencies, generally including lunch and a visit to the pearl farm.

Pra Nahng Sahng Temple (วัดพระนางสร้าง)

The grounds of this historic temple are where the Battle of Thalang took place in 1785. Inside are three very old statues wrought in tin of the Buddha; they are the largest such in the world and date from a time when tin was regarded as a semi-precious metal. The bellies of the three big statues each contain a smaller statue, from which derives their name, 'Monks in the Belly' in local vernacular, or 'The Three Kings' in formal language. Located on Thep Krasatri Rd. in Thalang Town at the traffic light (see map).



Pra Tong Temple (วัดพระทอง)

This shrine encloses a golden statue of Buddha that sprang up from beneath the earth long ago. The story is of a young boy who tied his buffalo to what he thought was a post; it was in an area at that time given over to the raising of animals. After doing so, he fell down in agony and died. The father of the boy dreamed that the reason

his son had died was for the sin of tying a filthy buffalo to a sacred object, that what the boy thought was a post was in reality the golden peak of the Buddha's conical cap. He told his neighbors the dream and they all went out to dig up the statue but had no success.

Later, at the time of Thao Thep Kasatri's heroic defense against the Burmese in 1785, the invaders tried to succeed where the villagers had failed; their intention was to take the statue back to Burma. Sacred objects and slaves were then the most sought after spoil for armies: Holy statues brought good luck to their possessors, and the slaves were used for work, and to populate places that lacked inhabitants - a frequent problem for rulers in Southeast Asia, who had a great deal of land but very few subjects. The Burmese, however, were unable to retrieve the golden Buddha despite several attempts; they were finally driven off by a swarm of angry hornets.

After this the villagers decided to protect their miraculous statue by covering the part that stuck up from the ground with a plaster cast of Buddha's head and shoulders' which is the way it is today. Located north of the traffic light on the outskirts of Thalang Town (see map). A large sign shows the entrance.

Khao Pra Taew Wildlife Conservation Development and Extension Center (เขาพระแท้ว) 22.28 square kilometers of virgin forest are covered by this park, which also actively conserves a number of wild animals; they would otherwise be extinct in fast-growing Phuket. It is a center for study of the environment. Forest vegetation is spectacular: Giant trees supported by huge buttresses are thick with creepers and climbers of every description; it looks like a Tarzan movie set. One species of palm found, the Governor's Palm or White Back Palm (pahm lahng kao in Thai) is especially rare. Langurs, barking deer, mouse deer, deer, bear, wild boar, monkeys, gibbons, and many species of birds inhabit the forest. Kao Pra Taew serves also as one of Phuket's most important water sources. There are two waterfalls of note:

- **Ton Sai** (น้ำตกไถ่) A small falls over which pours a great volume of water during the rainy season. The trees, watercourses, and pools nearby provide one of Phuket's loveliest scenes. The park headquarters and a small restaurant with an excellent view are also at Ton Sai. Located near Thalang Town, 22 kms. from Phuket

Town. Go to the traffic light and take the road running east; look for posted signs indicating Kao Pra Taew (see map).

- **Bang Pae** (บังปะเย) Best known now as the site of the Gibbon Fund, a project to return domesticated gibbons to the forest, Bang Pae is a small waterfall with a shady forest and thick foliage surrounding. To get there go to the Two Heroines Monument and take the road running east, the Pa Khlok Rd., 7 kms. to Bang Pae (see map). Look for the posted signs.

Surin Beach (หาดสุรินทร์) Evergreen trees rim this small, curving bay beneath the foothills north of Kamala. Surin is home to Phuket's first golf course, a nine-hole course laid out more than sixty years ago during the reign of King Rama VII. It is now largely in disuse except as a park. The steep incline of the beach, turbulent water, and big waves make Surin a dangerous place to swim during the rainy season. Located at the end of Sri Suntorn Rd., the road running west from the Two Heroines Monument, 24 kms. from Phuket Town (see map). Accommodations and restaurants are nearby.

Singh Cape (แหลมลิงห์) The name means Lion's Point in English - in this case, the mythical, stylized lion of Chinese literature, not the African variety; there have never been any lions found in Thailand. The beach is in a small, curving bay with rocky headlands at the foot of forest-fringed cliffs and is among Phuket's most beautiful. Located about 1 km. south of the entrance to Surin Beach. Look for signs indicating the path down to the beach.

Bangtao Beach (หาดบางเตา): Bang Tao is a large open bay with one of Phuket's longest beaches. It was once used for tin mining, but has since been developed into a luxury resort. Most of it is occupied by the Laguna complex, a massive five-hotel development with golf course. There are, however, accommodations available outside Laguna at the bay's south end. Dry season swimming is excellent, and at the bay's north end is a smaller bay, almost completely enclosed, at the mouth of which is some fine coral. Plenty of places to eat, tour companies, and other tourist facilities available either at Laguna or in the nearby town of Cherng Talay. **Located** off Sri Suntorn Rd. in Cherng Talay for access to Laguna; the south end of the bay may be approached

by taking the road north from Surin Beach. To get to the far north end from Sri Suntorn Rd., take the road leading to Laguna, but do not enter, continue on to the town of Bandon where there is an intersection of asphalted roads, and take the one leading west toward the sea. This road leads also to Nai Ton Bay and makes a very pleasant drive. Along the way are some small bays with good swimming and no development.

Sirinat National Park (Nai Yang Beach)

(อุทยานแห่งชาติสิรินาถ) This covers 90 square kilometers near Phuket's airport and includes 13 kilometer long Nai Yang Beach. The park stretches all the way to the island's northern tip. There are a number of interesting places to visit :

- **Nai Ton Beach** (หาด奈因ตอน) This quiet bay nestled at the foot of high hills has a fine strip of sand. There are some accommodations but virtually no other business; it's often nearly deserted. Located between Bang Tao Bay and Nai Yang (see map). From Thep Krasatri Rd., turn at the first traffic light north of Thalang Town heading west, which is the Nai Yang Rd. (so called because it passes through rubber plantations, or yahng in Thai). Look for signs indicating the turn-off to Nai Ton.

- **Nai Yang Beach** (หาด奈因ยาง) This is where the National Park offices are located. The beach itself is on a long curving bay lined with evergreens that provide shade to picnickers--for which activity this is a very popular spot. The large coral reef is home to many different species of fish, and Nai Yang is well known as a site where sea turtles come to lay their eggs during the period from November to February; the population of these has, however, dropped off greatly. First class accommodations are available, and small food vendors cater to the many day trippers that visit. To get there take the Nai Yang Rd. and look for signs indicating the park entrance

- **Mai Khao Beach** (หาดไม้ขาว) Many kilometers of deserted beach characterize Mai Khao. There is little tourist business. The water is fine for swimming during the dry season; the rainy season brings big waves and strong currents that are dangerous. This lonely beach is another where sea turtles come to lay eggs. It is also home to what the Thais call a sea cicada, which is a form of marine life. To get there go to the northern tip of Phuket; the beach lies along the road's length.

- **Sai Kaew Beach** (หาดทรายแก้ว) This strip of sand is really just the northern portion of Mai Khao Beach and has much the same character. Located west of the bridges spanning the channel between Phuket and Phang-nga provinces.

- **Mangrove Forest** (ป่าชายเลน) Situated in Sirinat National Park near Ta Chatchai on Phuket's northern tip, the mangroves--saltwater swamps with unique eco-systems much prized by scientists searching for clues about adaptation and evolution--cover about 800 rai. Anyone with an interest in horticulture will be interested in the many unusual perennial plants found here: mountain ebony (kohng kahng bai lek), red cycas (prohng daeng), black myrsina (samae dahm), the Lady's Nails quisqualis (leb mue nang), and various creepers and climbers are among the more significant. There are also many mangrove-dwelling animals with unique evolutionary characteristics. A nature trail has been cleared for the convenience of visitors with signs indicating and explaining the various species.

Activities and Recreation

Scuba Diving Phuket is a center for the scuba diving industry. Popular locations for diving include the Similan, Surin, and Phi Phi islands. All instruction and equipment is available at the main beaches, with teachers of various nationalities. Beginner courses are very inexpensive, so if you have never learned to scuba dive, Phuket is a great place to learn.

Snorkeling The bays in Phuket contain many interesting coral reefs. Equipment can be rented from dive shops around the island.

Swimming During the rainy season's storms this can be very dangerous. Look for posted signs and flags indicating conditions for safe swimming; if the red flag is flying, do not go swimming in the ocean!

Sailing Most classes of boat--from dinghies to yachts--are available for rent.

For yachts & cruises :

- -Thai Marine Leisure, tel. (076) 239111
- -Sunsail Charters, tel. (076) 239057

- -Phuket Island Discovery, tel. (076) 239031
- -Phuket Marina Services, tel. (076) 238943-4
- -House Boats Ahoy, tel. (076) 260494

The Chinese Junk tour of Phang-nga Bay is also very interesting:

- -East West Siam, tel. (076) 340 912; fax (076) 206 653

Facilities and services for yachts are available at

- -Phuket Boat Lagoon, in Koh Kaew; tel. (076) 238 948; fax. (076) 239 056. Restaurant, hotel, pool, modern facilities; about 5 kms. north of Phuket Town in a sheltered lagoon.

--Yacht Haven Phuket, tel. (076) 206704-5 is located at the island's northeast end and offers year round protection from storms and rough seas.

--Phuket Boating Association, tel. 381615 at Ao Chalong

--Ao Chalong Yacht Club tel. 381488 at Ao Chalong

--Ban Nit Marina, tel. (076) 200409 at Kao Kan

--Phuket Yacht Club, tel. (076) 211470 at Ao Yon

RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR YACHTS ENTERING PHUKET WATERS

Where to Report Upon Entry : Phuket Port Control Center, located on 2nd floor of the Phuket Fishing Lodge Hotel, 52/2 Mu 9 Tambon (Sub district) Chalong, Amphoe Muang, Phuket, Latitude 7° 49' 0"N, longitude 98° 22' 0"E, tel and fax 66 76 381614

Types of Craft that Must Report : All yachts of foreign registry must report.

Making Contact : All vessels entering within 12 nautical miles must report their presence by radio : VHF Channel 16, 156.800 MHZ

Services : One Stop Services include :

1. Immigration
2. Customs
3. Harbour Master Region 5
4. Chalong Sub-district Administration

For smaller craft: Toppers and dinghies are available at Patong; Catamarans, Hobie Cats, and Top Cats are available at Kata.

Wind Surfing Boards may be rented by the hour, half-day, full day, or week at most major beaches. Tuition is available free.

Deep Sea Fishing Many tours are available; sailfish and marlins are the prized fish. Consult a tour agent for details.

Sea Canoeing Touring the limestone caverns in Phang-nga Bay is an unforgettable experience. Inflatable canoes squeeze into and under islands. Tour packages include all transportation and lunch.

Golf Phuket has four top golf courses with service that makes this a worldwide center for golf lovers.

- -Phuket Country Club in Kathu. Tel. (076) 321 038-40.
- -Loch Palm Golf Club Phuket in Kathu. Tel. (076) 321 929-31, 321 933-4.
- -Laguna Phuket Golf Club at Bang Tao. Tel. (076) 324 350, 270 991-2
- -Blue Canyon Country Club near the airport in Thalang. Tel. (076) 328 088

Miniature Golf Aside from Pirate's Cove Miniature Golf, which is covered under the listing on Patong, there is also:

- -Dino Park Mini Golf at Karon Beach. 18 holes; Tel. (076) 330 625.

Tours of Phuket Town The architecture and history of Phuket Town are examined during a guided tour of the town's historic center.
- -Old Phuket Tour Tel. & fax. (076) 311 270.

Jungle Tours Learn details of the life and environment of Phuket and surrounding provinces. Forest walks, river canoeing, elephant treks, and tour by Land Rover are made in small groups; eco-friendly eco-tourism.

Horseback Riding Guided tours on horseback are another way to relax while sight-seeing.

- -Crazy Horse in Nai Harn; tel. (076) 288 795.
- -Phuket Riding Club at Chalong; tel. (076) 288 213.
- -Phuket Laguna Riding Club at Bang Tao; tel (076) 324 199.
- -Phuket Shooting Range at Chalong; tel. (076) 381 667.

Herbal Saunas and Thai Massage are available in a variety of price ranges and levels of expertise.

Thai Boxing "Muay Thai" as it is called in Thai, strikes blows at- -and with- -every part of the body. The stadium is located at Sapan Hin in Phuket Town and bouts are held Friday nights.

Target Shooting Take aim with guns from small caliber to big bore and shot guns

- -Phuket Shooting Range at Chalong. Tel. (076) 381 667-8; fax. (076) 281 054.

Paintball Play at war with guns that shoot paint instead of lead. Loads of fun.

- -Top Gun at Chalong. Tel.(076) 381 667; fax. (076) 381 665.

Monkey School at Chalong, show times are 11.00, 14.00, 16.00 daily except Friday. Tel. 01-9569338

Snake Farms and Cobra Shows are located at Chalong and Patong.

The following tours are available at travel agencies :

- City Tour (Phuket Sight Seeing Tour)
- Phang-nga Bay Tour
- Phi Phi Island Tour
- Similan Island Tour
- Raya Island Tour
- Coral Island Tour
- Kai Island Tour
- Rang Yai Island Tour
- Maiton Island Tour
- Naka Island Tour
- Sea Canoeing Tour
- Eco & Adventure Tour

Shopping

Large department stores are located in Phuket Town and Patong, and a smaller one is in Thalang Town; they have a broad range of what is available in Thailand, both imported and domestic. Tailors have shops everywhere; labour costs are inexpensive so a handmade suit is an attractive purchase. Tailors supply the cloth, or you can select your own from one of the many cloth merchants on Thalang Rd. in Phuket Town (see map).

Department Stores:

- Ocean Shopping Mall on Tilok-U-Thit Rd., Phuket Town
- Robinsons-Ocean on Tilok-U-Thit Rd., Phuket Town
- Phuket Shopping Center on Rasada Rd., Phuket Town
- Ocean Department Store on Thaweeewong Rd., Patong
- Ocean Plaza on Soi Bangla, Patong
- Tesco Lotus Super Center on By pass Rd.,
- Big C Super Center on By pass Rd.,

Souvenir

Pearls, batiks, and pewter ware are Phuket's best known products. Shops that specialize in these are found on Rasada Rd., Yaowarat Rd. and Tilok Utit I Rd. in town and tourist beaches such as Patong, Kata, Karon and Rawai.

Radio, Television and Communications

Phuket is served by the full complement of Thai television channels and has seven radio stations. Several of these have English language broadcasts.

- Radio Phuket, 07:30 - 10:00 p.m. and VOA 10:00 p.m.
- 2:00 a.m. nightly on FM 89. Tel. (076) 213 513, 213 532.
- Tourist Time, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sundays on FM 90.5. Interviews with local newsmakers and music. Tel. (076) 215 604.

The Public Telecommunications Office of Phuket is on Phang-nga Rd. in Phuket Town. Operated by the Communications Authority of Thailand (CAT), direct dial and operator assisted calls can be made from there, and collect or reverse charge calls when the need arises. Tel. (076) 216 861.

E-mail facilities are available from a number of private businesses:

- Phuket Internet, City Park Plaza, Phang-nga Rd., Phuket Town
- V.do. e-mail, Soi 4 Phang-nga Rd., Phuket Town
- Pizzadelic, in Patong.
- K S C, Rasada Rd., Phuket Town.
- Jairak Laser, Takuapa Rd., Phuket Town
- On On Business Center, Phang-Nga Rd., Phuket Town

Local Festivals and Culture

Thao Thep Krasatri-Thao Sri Suntorn Festival is held 13 March yearly in memory of the two heroines who led the defense of the island against the Burmese in 1785.

Turtle Release Fair is held on Songkran, the nationwide Thai water festival, on 13 April. This date is also National Fisherman's Day. Baby turtles are released into the sea at various locations.

Chao Lay Boat Floating Festival falls during the middle of the sixth and eleventh lunar months yearly. The fest is held at the Chao Lay, or Sea Gipsy, villages in Phuket. The Rawai and Sapam villages hold their ceremonies on the 13th; Sirey village celebrates on the 14th; and the village at Laem La (east of the bridge on Phuket's northern tip) celebrates on the 15th. Ceremonies, which center around the setting adrift of small boats similar to the Thai festival of Loy Krathong, are held at night and their purpose is to drive away evil and bring good luck. Fingernail clippings and strands of hair are put in the little boats before release, along with little dolls fashioned from wood. Afterwards, the villagers perform their famous dance round their own boats, called the Ram Rong Ngeng.

Por Tor Festival This is an ancestor's festival of the ethnic Chinese that falls on the seventh lunar month of the Chinese, which is the same as the ninth lunar month of the Thais. Special foods, flowers and candles are presented to the ancestors' altars. Cakes in the shape of turtles are made from flour, some quite large. This is done because turtles live to great age and it is believed that by making such offering worshippers may extend

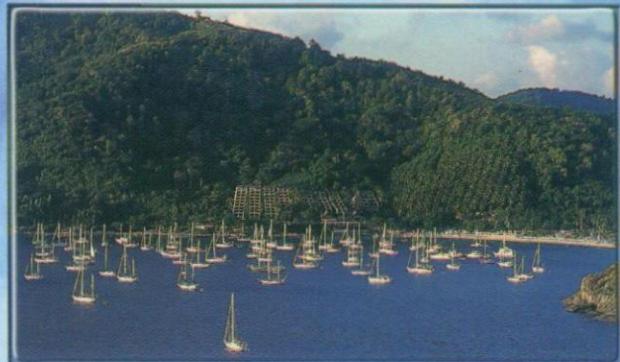
the length of their lives. It is an important merit-making festival.



Phuket Vegetarian Festival is held from the first through the ninth nights of the ninth Chinese lunar month; that is, in September or October. It was first celebrated in 1825, when a troupe of actors enacted these rites to ward off a plague. Vegetarian food is eaten by participants and white clothes worn during the period of the fest. Selfmutilization is practiced by those whose bodies become the temporary residence of powerful gods. Parades of worshippers brave fireworks while carrying images through the streets; others walk on fire or climb bladed ladders. Participants number in the thousands. The whole forms one of the most bizarre festivals in Thailand.

Laguna Phuket Triathlon This annual yearend event sees the world's top triathletes and hundreds of amateurs competing for prize money and placing on the world triathlon circuit. The course, which includes swimming, bicycling, and running through the beautiful natural surroundings of Laguna Phuket in Tambon Choeng Talay, takes from two-and-a-half to five hours to complete.

Tourist Season Opening Festival is usually called the Patong Carnival in English, from the place where celebrations occur, and is held starting 1 November. There are many stalls with merchandise and food, parades, sports events, and a beauty competition for foreign tourists. The fest is held to cement solidarity among the government, the private business sector, and the people.



Phuket King's Cup Regatta was first held in 1987 in honour of His Majesty's 60th birthday. The King of Thailand is a noted boating enthusiast and yachts come from around the world to participate in the competition, which is the largest and most popular in Southeast Asia. It is held yearly on the anniversary of His Majesty's birthday, 5 December. Site of the regatta is Nai Harn Bay.

Local Dishes

Phuket has a number of foods different in character and flavour from those of other areas in Thailand. The international character of the island, however, with so many different restaurants catering to a multitude of tastes, makes it difficult for non-Thais to identify Phuket cuisine. Below is a list of dishes and shops where they can be sampled.

Mee Hokkian yellow egg noodles stir-fried with leafy green vegetables in soy sauce, usually with pork or chicken. The best known shops are:

--**Mee Ton Poh** (เมี๊ยตันโพธิ์) near the clock tower traffic circle on Phuket Rd. in Phuket Town.

--**Mee Sapam** (เมี๊ยสปาม) on Thep Krasatri Rd. in the village of Sapam.

--**Mee Ao Geh** (เมี๊ยอ่าวเกห) on Phunphol Rd. in Phuket Town.

Yellow noodles are also cooked in both 'dry' and 'wet' versions, and as a prawn soup. For these try:

--**Somjit** (ร้านหมี่สมจิต) near the clocktower traffic circle on Phuket Rd.

--**Jirayuwat** (ร้านหมี่จิราภิวัฒน์) near the Pearl Cinema on Phang-nga Rd. in Phuket Town.

Mee Huhn Pah Chahng (หมี่หุนป้าช่าง) Dry fried noodles eaten with pork bone soup. For this try (all in Phuket Town):

- (ร้านหมี่หุ้นป้าจ่าง) on Thanon Yaowarat.
- (ร้านหมี่หุ้นป้าจ่าง) near the Tessaban Ban Bang Niao School on Takua Tung Rd.
- (ร้านหมี่หุ้นป้าจ่าง) on Ranong Rd. near the entrance to Soi Lorong.

Mee Sua (มีเส้า) Breakfast noodles served with the boiled rice dishes Khao Tohm or Johk. This can be ordered at various shops around town, but the best known in Phuket Town is:

- **Kou Kwan** (ร้านคู่ขวัญ) near Ruampaet Hospital on Phuket Rd.

Kanohm Jin Phuket (ขนมจีน) Noodles often compared to spaghetti usually served with a spicy curry sauce, the most common made from fish. It is usually eaten as a breakfast food and is, if you can stand its fiery character, delicious. It comes with an array of fresh vegetables and boiled eggs that are mixed with the dish by diners at their table. It is often found with the fried pastry called Pah Tong Go and the curried fish mousse called Hor Mohk, both of which are very tasty. Some of the curries are not spicy, so try a shop that has many curries to choose from if you are sensitive to spicy cuisine. There are many shops to choose from everywhere in Phuket but the most famous are in Phuket Town:

- **Kwan Kanohm Jin** (ร้านขวัญขนมจีน) on Tungka Rd.
- **Pah Mai** (ร้านป้าไม) on Krabi Rd.
- **Pah Ri** (ร้านป้ารี) on Pahtipah Rd.

Lo Bah (โลบะ) Fried sausages served with fried tofu and spicy sweet and sour sauce. For this try (in Phuket Town):

- (ร้านโลบะ) on the way to Sapan Hin
- (ร้านเบงสองโลบะ) on Poonphol Rd.

Oh Tao (โอเต้า) Oysters fried with flour, eggs, and taro root. The best known places in Phuket Town are:

- (ร้านโอเต้า) near the Tessaban Ban Bang Niao school

Nam Prik Goong Sohd (น้ำพริกกุ้งสด) Spicy shrimp paste with fresh shrimp, chili, and lime. Eaten with rice or Kanohm Jin. Nam Prik comes in various forms; it is generally regarded by Thais to be as indispensable as rice.

Nam Prik Goong Siab (น้ำพริกกุ้งเสียบ) Similar to the above but featuring whole, dried shrimps and eaten with various vegetables as an appetizer. Among the spiciest dishes in Thailand. Most restaurants that prepare food according to order - as opposed to little shops serving only a set menu - make nam prik goong siab. The best known are in Phuket Town:

- **Mae Porn** (ร้านแม่พรอง) on Phang-nga Rd.
- **Laem Tong Restaurant** (กัดดาการแหลมทอง) on Chana Jaroen Rd.
- **Kuhn Mae Ju** (ร้านคุณแม่จู) on Thep Krasatri Rd. in the village of Sapam.
- **Lai An Lao** (ร้านไลอันเหลา) on Rasada Rd.
- **N.C. Restaurant** on Phang-nga Rd.

Tao Sor (ขummเด็กส้อ) or **Kanohm Bia Phuket** (ขนมเปี๊ยะภูเก็ต) Spring rolls, Chinese crepes. The best known are found at:

- **Kaeng Tin** (เคลื่อน) near Ruam Paet Hospital on Phuket Rd.
- (ร้านเด็กส้อ) on Soi Suhn Utit, Yaowarat Rd. in Phuket Town.
- **Kuhn Mae Ju** (คุณแม่จู) on Thep Krasatri Rd. in the village of Sapam
- **Mae Boon Tahm** (แม่บุญธรรม) on Surin Rd., Soi 4.

Oh Aew (โอ๊ะเอ้ว) An iced sweet made of flour, banana, and a little seaweed. Look for it at:

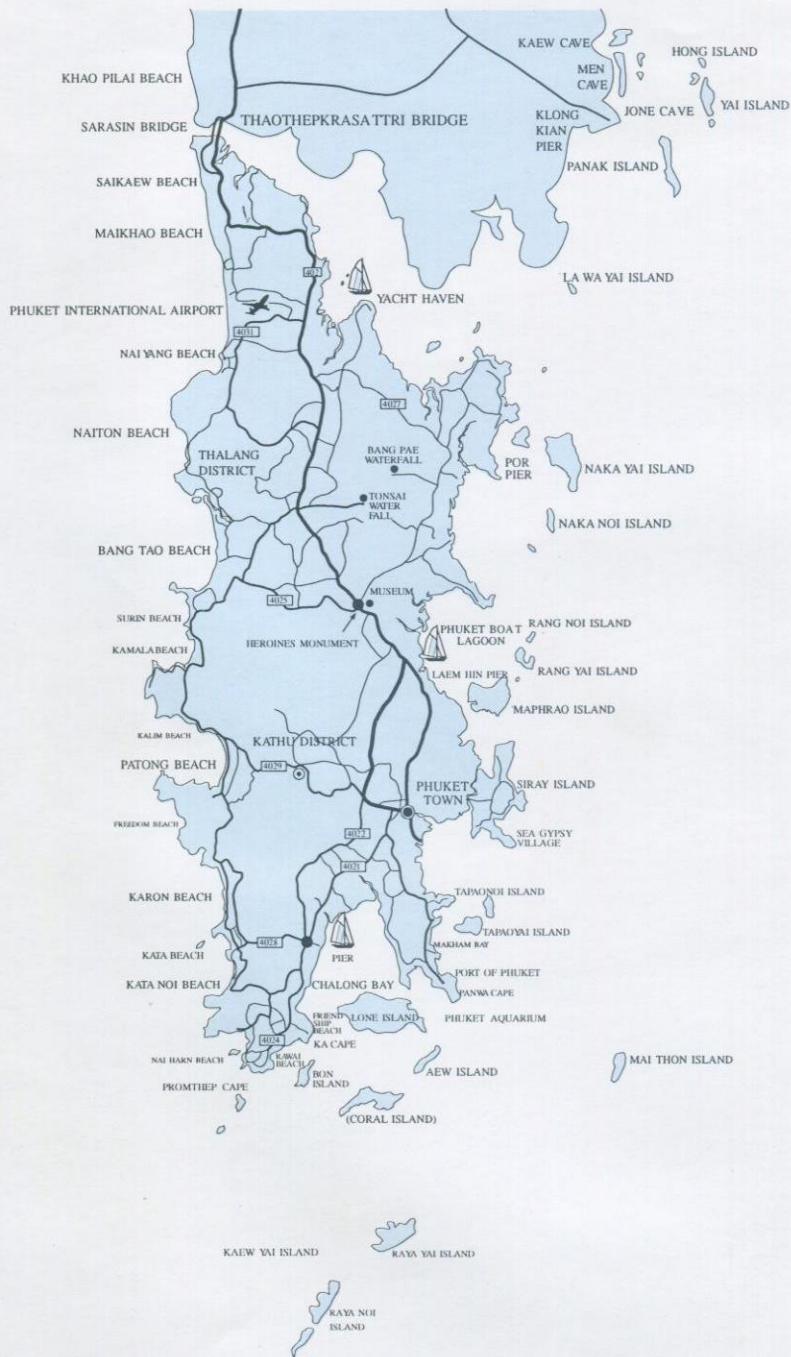
- (ร้านโอ๊ะเอ้ว) on Soi Soon Utit, Yaowarat Rd.
- (ร้านโอ๊ะเอ้ว) on Ranong Rd. at the entrance to Soi Lorong.

Other foods held to be characteristic of Phuket include cashew nuts, which are planted along many of Phuket's highways, and pineapples - though to be crisper and sweeter than elsewhere.

Cashew nuts (เม็ดมะม่วงหิมพานต์) try at :

- **Maeti** (เมธี) on Tilok Utit 2 Rd.
- **Sri Boorapa Orchid** (ศรีบูรพาօอคิด) on Takua Tung Rd. and Kwang Ban Teen Kao Rd.
- **Sri Supalak Orchid** (ศรีสุภาลักษณ์օอคิด) on Thepkrasatri Rd.

Pineapples can be purchased in the Fresh Market, and are found generally.





Produced by :

Tourism Authority of Thailand.

Southern Office : Region 4 (Phuket-Phang Nga-Krabi)
73-75 Phuket Road, Amphur Muang, Phuket 83000, Thailand.
Tel : 0-7621-2213, 0-7621-1036 Fax : 66 76 213582
E-mail : tathkt@phuket.ksc.co.th
www.phukettourism.org